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ISLAMIC AFFAIRS

MUFTI OF SOVIET MUSLIMS INTERVIEWED

Jerusalem AL-'AWDAH in Arabic 15 Sep 86 p 46-48

[Article: "We Stand Together With the Palestinian People"]

[Text] Islam inside Soviet territory has all the respect and equality that all religions have, as is stipulated in the Soviet constitution. The mosques are full each Friday and on the major religious occasions and contributions are collected for charity. All the Islamic places of worship in the Soviet Union are maintained as well as the rituals of the pilgrimage and delegations that go to Saudi Arabia. Also Muslims here join in crushing aggression, preserving world peace, and supporting the Palestinian people in their destined cause.

This meeting was with Mufti Tal'at Taj-al-Din, head of the religious organization of the Muslims in the European and Siberian sections of the Soviet Union.

[Question] How are the pilgrimage rituals of Soviet Muslims progressing?

[Answer] I was pleased last year to lead a group of Soviet Muslims pilgrims going on the religious pilgrimage to the Islamic holy places in Mecca and Medina. We had meetings with our brothers in the faith abroad. Of these I mention especially our meeting in the holy council for questions on precise Arabic by Muslims living outside the Arab world. I was very happy when those participating in the council gave attention to printing the new Qur'an that was published recently in Qazan.

Islam Is a Well-Established Force

[Question] Concerning the Islamic religious centers, what are their primary missions?

[Answer] The city of Qazan, one of the main Islamic religious centers in our vast district, has been well-known since the Islamic awakening in printing the noble book, which is always watched with regard to publication, style of script and organization, proper placing, and explanation of the divisions between the Qur'anic verses and the interpretation, to the greatest extent in regard to the non-Arab Muslim public, who are fortunate enough to have a correct, readable Qur'anic text.

And in all important Islamic communities the council also has started and completed a blessed public reading of the indisputable Qur'anic verses. All this has taken place as our customary practice. But what went beyond our usual practice was that those in charge of the council's affairs gave priority to the honor of reading on two conditions: the membership in our group of 'Abd-al-Hamid Zaynatollah, imam of the mosque in the city of (Zeleno-Vilsek), one of the smaller cities that only shows up on detailed maps. Now that the council has come to a close, and we have become closer to most of those who took part in it, they have begun delighting us with the proficiency our reader has shown in reading the Qur'an. And the speakers confess that, even though they could not exactly see the situation of (Zeleno-Vilsek), they believe that the principles of Islam in that city are strong and firmly established. And for our part we have grown in knowledge of our brothers in the faith. We say that these principles are strong and firmly established everywhere that Muslims live in our vast region. The best evidence of this is the maintenance of the public mosques in excellent condition and the construction of new ones. For instance, our religious directorate last year allocated 40,000 riyals for the repair of the mosque in Leningrad in addition to the basic amounts allocated for repair of this same mosque. During the last 2 years new mosques were opened here in Volgograd, (Krasnoyarsk), Bogatshov, (Tuztiyuba), Sverdlovsk, (Nolart-Oktiabrak), (Disitrovgrad), and in other large and small areas.

The Mosque First and Last

[Question] How do you carry out Islamic rituals in the Soviet Union?

[Answer] The mosques have been and still are the main centers for spreading Islam and its holy teachings. There religious exhortations are given and formal legal opinions are read, as are epistles and appeals from mosques and sister Islamic organizations, as well as decisions and instructions from the Supreme International Council on Mosque-Related Affairs, which included in its membership a few days ago our own deceased revered teacher, the late Mufti Diya'al-Din Ishan Babahan, also representative of the Soviet Muslims.

Muslim contribution are collected at the mosques for various charitable causes. For example, last year alone 250,000 rubles were collected in our mosques and sent to the peace fund, and 20,000 rubles was collected for erecting a monument to the victory of the Soviet people in the World War of 1941-45. At our mosques we have also been collecting contributions from our Muslims to aid the victims of Israeli aggression and to help the populations of Asia, Africa, and Latin America that are suffering from natural disasters.

What enhances the nature and standing of our mosques is that the speakers who serve in them are people who have extensive education and knowledge. Therefore our mosques are jammed with Muslims on Fridays and on feast days. "But God's mosques are built by God's faithful one and on the last day he will perform the ritual prayer and gather the alms tax, fearing God alone."

The Fertile Soil

[Question] What is the primary authority that oversees the mosques here?

[Answer] The Muslim Directorate for Religion oversees the activity of our public mosques. This is one of the four highest regional guidance agencies for Muslims of the Soviet Union. All these agencies, the Muslim Directorates for Religion of the European section of the Soviet Union and Siberia, Central Asia, Kazakhstan, Northern Caucasus, and trans-Caucasus, cooperate well together in the spirit of true brotherhood and mutual support along the exhortative path of The Almighty, Most High One: "And they cooperated in godliness and righteousness, but not in sin and enmity."

This great commandment of our gracious God has been experienced in our country. Soil has been fertilized to implement it and make it a special principle of daily socialist life because it is in complete harmony with one of the basic principles that the whole Soviet state is founded upon, along with the principle of complete equality among the more than 100 ethnic groups, some large and some small, living here with their own languages and religions, along with the principle of their sincere harmony, honest cooperation, and mutual brotherly help. To demonstrate this, numerous examples of this principle can be cited from our constitution, our voting rights, and the equal representation for our peoples, regardless of their number, and on the basis of the supreme Soviet election commission of the Ethnic Groups Council, subordinate to the Supreme Soviet, which contains, from each of the 15 Soviet republics, regardless of size of territory or population, 32 representatives, and from each of the autonomous republics, 11 representatives.

Shining examples can be mentioned of how we build our large establishments, which are brought about by various small mosques in our homeland, representing the dozens of peoples and ethnic groups. And in this same manner no less, the way of the popular establishments, a large assembly of modern chemical firms was established in our region to produce those items required for photography and the cinema, in Qazan, the capital of the autonomous Tatar Republic, as well as the giant factory in the city of Brezhnev for producing Kamaz trucks. In the city of Ustinov a light automobile factory and a motorcycle factory were established.

[Question] What is the role of Muslims here in the struggle for world peace?

[Answer] It is our firm conviction that every believer and every honorable person not only can, but must stand up for and protect world peace. The Muslims of the European section of the Soviet Union and Siberia, along with their brothers in the faith in other areas of our homeland, were among those initiating and actively participating in a number of peace conferences and councils, whether Islamic, made up of various religions, or secular. The conference of 1980, which was held in the Soviet Union under the slogan "The First Muslim Century Must Be a Century of Peace and Friendship among the Peoples," held an important place in their communities.

The Muslims of the Soviet Union expressed once more in this well-known symposium, in which prominent government and socialist personalities, as well as distinguished learned Muslims, participated, their firm determination not to bow to any pressure, no matter what, from the dark, evil forces trying to push mankind into the hell of a suicidal Third World War. This is expressed in their deep-rooted faith in the bright future of our land, the Islamic spirit, the correct, and the vital Semitic principles of our sacred religion and the Islamic re-awakening, which frequently is spoken and written of today. The primary substance of these are, in our view, concealed in the deep awareness of all the faithful of their direct responsibility for the development of world peace, and consequently for the preservation of human civilization itself as well as every creature on earth.

This year, 1986, which the UN proclaimed as the international year of peace, has, since its beginning, witnessed new, wide-ranging Soviet initiatives. The first new initiative, presented by Mikhail Gorbachev in his statement of 15 January, was described by all people of good will and all sound-thinking government and socialist personalities as a signal of historic significance. This was the first time in our century that an extensive, tangible, practical plan, calculated precisely for this time, has been proposed, calling for complete liquidation everywhere of nuclear and other weapons through collective means of destruction.

[Question] As Muslims, what is your position regarding the issue of the Palestinian people?

[Answer] We Muslims are cut in our soul especially by the criminal, immoral situation in which a whole people, the Palestinian Arabs, are denied their right to live in their land and determine their own destiny. The Muslims of the Soviet Union, whose concern is the concern of all people, march in the front ranks of the world movement of solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people, struggling to regain their stolen rights in their usurped land. We also support passionately the plan submitted several times by our country for solving the issues of this struggle. But Israel and its protectors do not, in any circumstance, want to abandon their dream of solving the crisis without the Palestinians. Nor does the well-known aggressor want to enter into any negotiations with the Palestinians. In this way the Palestinians are left no choice, but armed struggle. Therefore they are all called terrorists, and all who support them in their just struggle for liberation are "supporters of terrorists." However, such a fallacy as this will not deceive us because, God, may He be praised and exalted, send with all clarity: "Therefore, to those who fight because of oppression, God is omnipotent in granting them victory." And regarding those who are expelled from their homes unjustly, "however, they say let our Lord God, even the God who defended the people from one another as they smashed minarets, churches, places of prayer, and mosques in which God's name is often mentioned, help whom he will help. Truly God is mighty and powerful (22, 39, 40)." This blessed Qur'anic passage impels all people, regardless of their religious convictions, toward the utmost need to unify their efforts there, where the religious shrines are exposed to danger. And today Israel is defiling the occupied Arab lands.

What can one expect tomorrow from a country that has earned for itself the thoroughly shameful reputation of following an absolutely hostile, fanatical policy. Jerusalem announced, after its eastern sector was occupied, "it is an eternal capital which will not be partitioned." Note that East Jerusalem, particularly, contains basically not only Islamic shrines, but Christian shrines also. It is strange that those who are trying to protect their dignity and nobility of race call them "terrorists."

So today one knows to what extent and with what impudence and arrogance the Israeli aggressor and its protectors use the false emblem of "the struggle against terrorism." They launch a vicious attack of threats, intimidation, and a show of military force against the Arabs, thereby violating all the rules and practices of civilized relations.

The Muslims of the Soviet Union are following with deep concern the course of the new surge of the hostile campaign against the Arabs, launched by international imperialism and Israel, and strongly condemn this and all those who have raised terrorism to the level of national policy as well as those who trample on the legitimate rights and interests, not only of the Islamic peoples, but of all the peoples of the earth. It is our duty and the duty of all people of good will that we join ranks in the face of the forces of evil and aggression.

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ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

ASALA REPORTEDLY THREATENS TURKISH, FRENCH OFFICIALS

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 8 Oct 86 pp 1,4

[Text] European news agencies report that several countries are starting a wide-ranging cooperation effort to build a strong barrier against international terrorism. It is reported in this regard that most attention is paid to the activities of ASALA because it has recently begun to threaten France as well as other European countries, but most specifically France and Turkey.

Indeed, ASALA declared yesterday that it will soon mount acts of terrorism against Turkish institutions in France. In a press conference in Athens, the terrorists said that France, too, will receive the punishment it deserves in the coming days if it continues to arrest Armenians and refuses to release Armenian prisoners.

Meanwhile, it is reported that French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac secretly went to Holland two days ago to have an important meeting with his Dutch counterpart, Ruud Lubbers, with regard to the planned anti-terrorist measures. Chirac's visit was kept secret by the authorities for security reasons. It is reported that with his visit to Holland Chirac took the first practical step toward organizing a pan-European effort against terrorism. In the past, the French government has discussed ways of cooperation against terrorism with the FRG and Turkish governments. The Chirac government is currently collaborating with Turkey with regard to the activities of ASALA in particular. The collaboration between France and the FRG is mainly focused on the activities of the "Red Army" terrorist organization. France is also in contact with other European countries to set up a strong barrier against terrorism. Talks have already been held with Italy, Belgium, Britain, Denmark and Norway. Chirac has also asked Syrian authorities to help the efforts to mount an effective campaign against terrorism. France is optimistic that the Syrians will help on this issue, particularly with regard to terrorist organizations with Middle Eastern origins.

ASALA Continues Threats

Meanwhile, it is reported that yesterday ASALA issued a third threat against the French government, but in its communique it emphasized acts against primarily Turkish organizations and institutions. In its statement sent to a Western news agency in Beirut, ASALA said: "Our main target is Turkey. In our

operations in France we will be very careful to prevent innocent people from getting hurt by these operations." Experts interpret this communique as an indication that ASALA will mount assaults against Turkish institutions and organizations in France in the coming days.

In view of these latest threats, a tight security belt has been placed around Turkish institutions, tourist offices and other organizations in France. In airports, explosives experts patrol Turkish offices around the clock. Meanwhile, weapons have begun to be issued to French diplomats. Streets in Paris are patrolled by soldiers, and in Belgium passengers traveling on French airplanes use secret gates to board and disembark from airplanes.

Vahramian Continues Threats

Yesterday noon, an individual named Vahramian phoned the Beirut offices of Western news agencies and delivered a message on behalf of ASALA stating that he is the official spokesman of the organization. Vahramian stated that ASALA has asked the leaders of the "Islamic Jihad" organization to kill one of their hostages, French journalist Jean-Paul Kaufmann, if their imprisoned colleagues in Paris are not released. Vahramian charged that Kaufmann is in reality a Zionist spy and should have been killed in accordance with Islamic law. Vahramian also urged Islamic Jihad leaders to kill Kaufmann on the day Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres visits Paris as a nice and unforgettable present to Jews living in France.

Vahramian also described French President Mitterrand as an "Israeli" and said that Mitterrand will be killed to avenge for the death of their colleague, Aram Basmajian. He also reiterated ASALA's threat against Chirac demanding that his imprisoned colleagues be released.

Meanwhile, the "Committee for Solidarity with Arab and Middle Eastern Prisoners" issued a statement repeating its demands accompanied with threats. Beside France, the organization also threatened Italy, stating that if its members are not released "Rome will be turned into a city of ruins." This organization has been demanding the release of two Lebanese nationals held in Italy, Josephine Aldo Sarkis and Abdullah Mansour. The organization also called on France reminding it that it would be in its own interests to release George Ibrahim Abdullah, Varujan Garbisian and Anis Nakkash without delay.

In this connection, Abu Iyad, the security chief of the Palestine Liberation Organization, insisted once again that this organization is backed by the Syrian secret service.

9588

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ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

MOSAD SAID TO SUBMIT ASALA MEMBERS' LIST TO FRANCE

Istanbul JAMANAK in Armenian 25 Sep 86 p 1

[Article: "Mosad Gives France List of ASALA Members: Chirac Accused of Bargaining With ASALA"]

[Text] According to Information in certain circles, the Israeli secret intelligence organization Mosad has turned over to French security officials all documents in its possession pertaining to ASALA being behind the terrorist movement in France.

LE MONDE reports on the basis of information received from Tel Aviv that documents turned over by the Mosad to the French security Service, DST, list the names of all "suspicious" Armenians residing in France and their relationship with ASALA.

Here Are the Facts

It is being said in Israeli military circles that French security agencies are directing their attention toward ASALA in connection with the terrorist incidents which occurred in France three weeks back. The same sources claim that it has already been "proven that the Armenians stand behind French terrorism."

During the past two days French police and military have been closely watching the activities of the Armenian organizations. Following the arrest of Ara Toranian, president of and spokesman for the "Armenian National Front," hundreds of Armenians in various parts of France have been questioned.

According to information from reliable sources, the "Committee for Defense of Middle-Eastern and Arab Political Prisoners," which claimed responsibility for the most recent terrorist acts, has very close ties with ASALA and the "Holy Jihad."

It has also become evident that the Shiite Hezbollah organization (Iranian) also is in league with these organizations, bringing weapons and explosives into France by diplomatic pouch.

French security circles are leveling charges against Syria, Iran and Lebanon in connection with the bringing of weapons and explosives into France.

On the other hand, investigations conducted in Paris clearly indicate that the bombs which have been set off during the past three weeks are of the kind used by ASALA terrorists and that the bombing technique employed is strikingly similar to that employed by members of ASALA.

Chirac Accused

Yesterday LE MONDE accused Prime Minister Chirac of treating ASALA with kid gloves. The paper reports that Shirak received a letter of thanks from the ASALA organization for setting free three Armenian ASALA terrorists last August.

LE MONDE claims that Shirak has been in a cozy relationship with ASALA since 1974 and that he has yielded to the whim of the terrorists.

In order to ensure the protection of terrorists George Ibrahim Abdallah, Varuzhan Karpisian and Nakkash, they have been transferred to the same detention facility. Questioning of these terrorists will continue, and they will be brought face to face in order to shed light on a number of items.

Claim About Bargaining

The Paris magazine LE CANARD ENCHAINE reports that the French Government has been engaged in bargaining sessions with the Lebanese Revolutionary Armed Groups, which are led by George Ibrahim Abdallah.

According to this magazine, the French secret service has been acting as mediator in this bargaining, which began last May. In exchange for freeing George Abdallah, France demands that the organization refrain from undertaking terrorist activities in France.

3024
CSO: 4605/06

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

FORMER COLLEAGUE BLASTS ASALA OPERATIONS, LEADER

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 8 Oct 86 pp 1, 4

[Article: "Ara Toranian Also Condemns ASALA: 'The Organization Has Become an Instrument in the Hands of Foreigners'"]

[Text] The recent bombings which have occurred in Paris as well as ASALA's position with regard to terrorist actions are gradually causing voices within the Armenian community to speak out against this organization. Armenian movement leader Ara Toranian (he was recently arrested and then released), for example, has also leveled bitter accusations at ASALA, stating that it has gone beyond the boundaries of serving the Armenian cause and has become an instrument of a number of foreign countries, a tool for their schemes, and for that reason has begun to lose its appeal and support within the Armenian community.

Ara Toranian, who made the above statement yesterday to a correspondent with the Paris newspaper LE MONDE, leveling serious criticism against the organization, also condemned ASALA leader Hakop Hakopian, calling him a "tool of a number of Middle-Eastern countries."

Ara Toranian, leader of the Armenian National Movement organization, until recently a staunch supporter and defender of ASALA, has parted ways with it and has established his own organization, called the Armenian National Movement. In his statement Toranian added that ASALA is working in close collaboration with the present Islamic Jihad organization and that ASALA leader Hakop Hakopian has killed a number of members of the Dashnak organization in Beirut.

ASALA Is Nobody's Hope

Discussing recent ASALA actions, Ara Toranian added that it is the Armenian Community which will suffer the most from such actions, and consequently it is quite natural that due to this the organization is steadily losing appeal and support among the Armenians. "At one time," Ara Toranian stated, "ASALA was truly the source of our hope, for that reason Armenian young people were solidly behind it. I personally thought that it alone would be able to free Armenia from Turkish hands. And Hakop Hakopian had become a bright, shining symbol of our cause."

Ara Toranian then stated that ASALA's fame reached a peak in 1981 when it occupied the Turkish Embassy in Paris, resulting in unprecedented support of that organization by the Armenian community. Toranian then continued: "Our paths parted following the slaughter at Orly. (As is known, six of the eight people who died as a consequence of the incident at Orly were French. Many of the injured were also French. Following this incident the existing agreement between the French leftist government in office and ASALA was terminated, since according to that agreement ASALA had promised under no circumstances to cause harm to the French people and to the interests of France. Immediately following the incident the French police proceeded to go after the Armenians and arrest those under suspicion). Even before that time there had been a number of differences of opinion between us and the organization. Hakopian was insisting that we free our arrested people by means of force. What we proposed was to appeal to justice and in the course of trial proceedings to make our cause and demands in this regard known to the entire world. We were of the view that at the end of the proceedings our incarcerated comrades would be set free."

ASALA and Abu Nidal

Ara Toranian emphasized in his statement that a struggle between Hakop Hakopian and Monte Melkonian is still in progress within ASALA ranks. He continued: "At the present time 30 members of ASALA are under the command of Hakop Hakopian. All of these have been well trained by Abu Nidal. They receive every support and encouragement from the Syrian Government and Iran. ASALA wants, through Syria, to keep under its influence the 250,000 Armenians presently residing in Lebanon."

3024
CSO: 4605/08

ALGERIA

BENDJEDID SPEAKS TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 2 Oct 86 p 3

[Article: "Balance Between Demography and Development"]

[Text] Algiers (APS)—The Council of Ministers met yesterday, Wednesday, 1 October 1986, under the chairmanship of Chadli Bendjedid, President of the Republic and general secretary of the National Liberation Front Party in the headquarters of the presidential palace of the Republic.

After an accounting by the prime minister of governmental activities, the Council of Ministers reviewed the dossier relating to demographic growth control and in this connection proceeded:

- On the one hand, to an evaluation of the activities carried out in 1985 and 1986 by all of the departments concerned;
- And on the other hand, to a discussion of the prospects and lines of action to be taken regarding the elaboration and implementation of the sectorial activities programs for 1987.

Demographic Growth Control: a Rate Compatible With the Need for an Improved Standard of Living

With respect to the balance sheet for activities carried out in the field of demographic growth control, the Council of Ministers reported on the progress made both in sensitization, information, and education and in the compliance of families with the principle of responsible fatherhood, as well as the implementation and improvement of services regarding allowances for the spacing of births.

In connection with activities in progress, the Council of Ministers stressed the necessity of completing in the best manner possible the 1986 programs, particularly the speeding up of the provision of the resources for the activities and research needed by the program for the purpose of developing and assuring greater effectiveness and greater compliance with the activities entered into.

In connection with the prospects and lines of action that are to govern the elaboration of the activities programs for 1987, the Council of Ministers also stressed the need:

- To continue, consolidate, and intensify the activities of sensitization, education, and information that have been undertaken;
- To continue activities aimed at facilitating access to allowances for the spacing of births by integrating the most effective modern methods and techniques, taking into consideration the free choice of couples;
- To state more precisely the objectives and the target dates of the activities programs of the various sectors concerned;
- To assure additional stimulus to the activities being carried out through increased coordination of these activities.

Finally, keeping in mind the obvious economic and social constraints resulting from an uncontrolled demographic growth, the Council of Ministers again mentioned the priority nature of the implementation of this program by all of the country's political, social, and cultural institutions.

Intervening in the discussion, the President of the Republic reminded those present that the major concern of the political administration of the country is to succeed in reducing, in accordance with the prescriptions of the national charter and with regard for the religious convictions, the manner of living, and the nature of our people, the rate of demographic growth to one that is compatible with the need for regular improvement in the nation's standard of living.

Alluding to the consequences of an uncontrolled demographic growth, the chief of state emphasized that the latter would only result in complicating the problems of satisfying present and future social needs. In doing this, it would risk jeopardising the chances for improvement in the quality of life for society as a whole, because it is a factor that is essentially disadvantageous to the success of the process of national expansion.

Continuing his talk, the President of the Republic warned against the harmful consequences of a combination of an aggravation of the present conditions engendered by the international economic crisis and those of a galloping demographic growth, emphasizing that it is necessary to grant the right of individual freedom of choice in the matter of procreation, so that recourse to measures restricting this freedom will not be necessary.

Requesting that everything be done to bring about conditions that will make possible the urgent solution needed for the complex problems connected with the control of demographic growth in the country, the chief of state laid stress on the individual effort that must sustain the national effort, in particular at the level of local communities, which must contribute better

implementation, through effective, non-burdensome, and lasting dispositions.

If there is a lack of conscious, voluntary, and active compliance on the part of citizens as a whole and lack of increased responsibility on the part of the family towards society, concluded the President of the Republic, each citizen will find himself paying for his portion of the costs imposed by the situation that is likely to follow as a result.

Emphasizing the responsibility of each citizen toward society, the chief of state stressed the need for a freely accepted obligation on the part of each person to arrive at a necessary conciliation between demographic growth and economic expansion.

In this regard, it is imperative, continued the President of the Republic, to break from passivity and to favor the active participation of each person in realizing a quantitative and qualitative jump in the national economy in order to guarantee an indispensable balance to the process of national expansion and to assure the future of the country.

The Best Utilization of Equipment, Infrastructures, and Other Resources: a Detailed Diagnosis

Going on to the next point in its agenda of the meeting, the Council of Ministers reviewed a report concerning the best utilization of equipment, infrastructures, and other resources.

Included in the topics concerning the governmental plan of action for 1986, the object of this report is to render an accounting of the results of studies made with a view to defining the ways and means of providing an answer to the concern of assuring the best utilization of equipment and other resources for the purpose of attaining:

- An increase in national production;
- A reduction in imports;
- A stimulus for exports.

To that end a plan of action has been determined. It consists of each ministry making a detailed analysis regarding the best mobilization of capabilities, and this, through:

- An evaluation of the main shortcomings with respect to the 1985 fiscal year objectives and present capabilities;
- The identification of internal and external causes of insufficiencies.
- The translation of needed corrective measures into additional objectives within the framework of the annual plan for 1986 and beyond that.

At the end of the discussion on this point, the Council of Ministers recommended completing the dossier that was reviewed with an evaluation of the objectives expected from the activities that will be included in the annual plan for 1987.

A National Maintenance Card

In a similar vein, the Council of Ministers next reviewed a report on the best utilization of maintenance bases.

The items for appraisal that were presented made it possible to ascertain imbalances in the park for enterprises and it showed that an important program has been realized with respect to maintenance centers and installed equipment.

In order to get rid of this imbalance, the Council of Ministers decided on some measures having to do in particular with:

- The implementation of a take over of surplus infrastructures and distributing them among national enterprises in a position to assure a profit from the shared resources;
- The elaboration of a national maintenance card for industrial vehicles and public works equipment;
- The furnishing of payments by producers and distributors of vehicles and equipment.

Industrial Zones: Reinforcement of the Missions of Management Offices

Next, the Council of Ministers reviewed a report on industrial zones. Its object was to evaluate the operation of industrial zones and to propose appropriate measures for improvement.

In the light of this report, the Council of Ministers noted:

- Insufficient coordination between the various intervening parties;
- An absence of discipline governing the occupation of the zones by industrial operators.

Therefore, the Council of Ministers took measures with a view to:

- Specifying recommended programs of action;
- Revising downward the standards of allocation of land in keeping with the principles of protection of agricultural land or land allocated to construction and the profitability of the occupation of allocated lands;

- Reinforcing the coordination missions of the administrative offices of industrial zones and expanding them to include the maintenance, developmental, and reorganization operations of the zones;
- The opening up of all maintenance infrastructures to all owners of vehicles or specialty equipment by type or material;
- Seeing to a better circulation of information between the offices and their local and central branches;
- Increasing the offices' capabilities for intervention and management.

Prevention and Safety: Intensification of Controls

The next point taken up by the Council of Ministers had to do with safety regarding conveyances, industrial installations, and collective equipment.

As a result of the report that was presented, measures were taken that were aimed in particular at:

- The standardization of the organization having to do with safety;
- The speeding up of the elaboration of organizational plans for intervention at the level of wilayas, communes, and units, and the distribution of specific sectorial instructions;
- The systematization of implementation of the aspect of "prevention and safety" at the level of the concept of investment projects;
- Bringing existing installations and infrastructures at potential risk up to safety standards;
- The promotion of national and local capability with regard to the manufacture of essential materials and the promotion of means for individual and collective safety;
- The integration of the "safety" issue in the pedagogical programs of the socio-educational apparatus and the generalization of training in the matter of first aid;
- The intensification of controls and inspection of installations in the matter of safety.

The Council of Ministers then listened to an expose on assuming responsibility for measures decided on by the government in favor of the moudjahidines and rightful claimants.

On this occasion, it approved a draft decree in accordance with regulations to protect this category.

At the close of its work, the Council of Ministers listened to a communication concerning the financial reorganization of various sectorial units and also to other reports on various subjects.

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CSO: 4519/20

EGYPT

PLANS ANNOUNCED FOR INCREASED ELECTRICITY GENERATION

Cairo AL-AHRAM: AL-TAB'AH AL-DUWALIYAH in Arabic 19 Oct 86 p 8

[Article: "An Additional 4800 Megawatts of Electricity Generated"]

[Text] Minister of Electricity and Energy Engineer Mahir Abazah announced that the ministry's second 5-year plan (1987-92) aims to increase generation capacity by building new stations with a capacity of 4800 megawatts, as well as complete the process of replacing and renovating old stations so that they operate at their original capacity. In addition, natural gas and coal will be relied upon in generation operations in order to minimize the use of oil.

The minister of electricity said that the plan provides for completing the modernization and development of the electrical station at the High Dam in order to raise its operational efficiency and increase the energy generated by 5 percent.

The minister indicated that operating certain electric power units in the new stations that are to be built will result in an increase of 600 megawatts over the electric power produced in the first 5-year plan, which added 4200 megawatts. This is an increase equal to the electricity generated during the previous 20 years in implementing the first plan.

He said that new electric transformer stations will be built with a total capacity of 16,870 megavolt-amperes, compared to transformer stations established during the first 5-year plan, which had a capacity of 332 megavolt-amperes.

He added that the second 5-year plan to increase electric power generation depends first and foremost on utilizing the natural gas found in Egyptian fields to run power stations. Similarly, coal-fired stations will be built in order to minimize the use of oil in the electric power stations, given its importance as a source of hard currency.

The minister of electricity said that the plan provides for the construction of five giant stations in Damietta, northern Upper Egypt, 'Uyun Musa in Sinai, and Sidi Karir on the northern coast (each with a capacity of 1200 megawatts) and a station in al-Za'farah on the Red Sea coast with a capacity of 2400 megawatts. Existing stations will also be expanded with the addition of 200-

megawatt units to the power stations in 'Ataqah, Abu-Qir, Damanhur, North and West Cairo, and a 600-megawatt unit in the South Cairo station.

The minister added that the plan provides for the construction of two new stations in al-'Arish and Marsa Matruh with a capacity of 60 megawatts, in addition to diesel units with a total capacity of 300 megawatts to feed areas remote from the central power grid.

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CSO: 4504/25

EGYPT

ADVANCED AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT TO BE PRODUCED LOCALLY

Cairo AL-AHRAM: AL-TAB'AH AL-DUWALIYAH in Arabic 19 Oct 86 p 9

[Article by 'Abd-al-Wahhab Hamid: "Egypt Produces, for the First Time, Advanced Agricultural Equipment; Advanced German Technology Reaches Egyptian Fields Within 2 Years"]

[Text] It has been decided that within the next 2 years, Egypt will become involved, for the first time, in the manufacture of advanced agricultural equipment through cooperation between experts from Egypt and West Germany. This is a new stage aiming to apply agricultural mechanization and transfer advanced agricultural technology from Germany to Egypt in preparation for joint production of agricultural equipment in Egypt within 2 years.

Representatives of the manufacturing companies that produce agricultural equipment in Germany emphasize that small-scale land ownership in Egypt is not an obstacle to modern mechanization on Egyptian farms and that the field trips made by representatives of these companies affirmed the need for Egyptian agriculture to catch up with the latest technology in mechanization and agriculture. Indeed Egypt's situation and capabilities as a leading country in the Middle East and one that has become involved in manufacturing will contribute enormously to producing the agricultural machinery necessary to mechanize in accordance with the type of soil found there.

The experiment is one of the results of a visit made to the Federal Republic of Germany by a delegation of senior officials of the Agricultural Credit Bank, led by Mr Najib 'Atiyah, who is head of the production and storage department of the agricultural bank.

From the first, the discussions, which included the largest agricultural equipment companies in West Germany, confirmed the possibility of initiating cooperation in order to apply mechanization and production of equipment in Egypt in preparation for their widespread use in Egyptian fields.

Dr Harald Niethmar, chairman of the board of a German company that produces agricultural machinery, announced that the next stage will see important steps that will begin with the preparation of studies to be carried out by both Egyptians and Germans to determine the kinds appropriate for use in Egypt in anticipation of joint capital production. Prior to this step, Egypt will be

given a group of machines to be used in Egyptian fields to make certain of their applicability before taking steps for domestic production. The Germans consider it very important to implement mechanization on new lands that are given to investors, university graduates, and young people, given that the Egyptian government gives special importance to this sector, since it represents the starting point for the expansion of agricultural production in Egypt.

Dr (Niethmar) added that it is not enough to set up joint manufacturing projects in Egypt or to start importing machinery. The Germans would emphasize training instead. In the last academic year, five students from the faculties of agriculture and engineering were trained in the production and use of agricultural equipment and it has been decided to increase the number to 10 in the current academic year. The aim is to create a cadre capable of implementing mechanization and agricultural technology in Egypt.

In addition to training, testing must also be given special attention. This also requires the establishment of maintenance centers for all the equipment that would be near the centers of production, serving all the farmers and a number of farms. Egypt has started on the right and natural path toward intensive agriculture. Investments in manufacturing must be encouraged, especially the production of agricultural equipment.

West Germany has the high technology in the area of agricultural manufacturing because of the connection between agriculture and equipment manufacture, so that this country has been able to be the world's sixth largest in agricultural production. It is recommended that the Egyptians give priority to choosing land suitable for mechanization and preparing the cadres needed for operation and maintenance. During my visit to Egypt, it became clear to me that all or most of the agricultural equipment being used there needs modification or the invention of new kinds to suit the Egyptian situation exactly.

The Egyptians stressed in the discussions that it should be known that Egypt wants the domestic component in the joint production to be large to allow participation in operating numerous factories and to provide more job opportunities.

The Germans recommended that production begin on a small, single-axle tractor and a hand tiller and that all the accessories be produced locally in order to take advantage of the capabilities of the Shubra Company, the Hulwan Company, and the rubber factories. The aim of all this is to raise the level of the Egyptian component over the foreign.

Mr Klein, an expert in the manufacture of agricultural equipment, stressed that the manufacturing sector that produces the agricultural machinery wants more cooperation with the Egyptians in order to transfer the expertise and technology in the area of agricultural equipment manufacture, using the appropriate equipment in the appropriate region, along with increased opportunities for implementation and increased maintenance and worker training. These are the fundamentals required for the success of any industry in the world.

LIBYA

RELEASE OF LIBYAN TERRORISTS EXAMINED

Background to Prisoner Exchange

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Oct 86 pp 14-16

[Article: "The Deal--Italy Frees Libyan Terrorists"]

[Text] On 7 October, under cover of darkness, there was a prisoner exchange between Libya and Italy, whereby three Libyans held in Italian prisons--Muhammad Yusuf Awhidah, Muhammad Sidqi Sa'id al-Dus, and Jum'ah Muhammad al-Mizdawi--were released in exchange for four Italian prisoners. What is the background, and ramifications, of this "deal?"

In a speech he delivered on 2 March 1981 on the fourth anniversary of the "Jamahiriyyah's" founding, al-Qadhdhafi said, "A ruler created by the people out of itself, and who wipes out his adversaries, reaps shame and disgrace. As for the people become ruler and lord, it is its duty to wipe out its enemies, because in order for the people to remain in power it must liquidate its adversaries. In spite of all our enemies' ridiculous, biased, ignorant propaganda, we affirm that we, the ruling people, shall continue liquidating our opponents. It is the duty of the Libyan people to continually wipe out its enemies, so that the people's power and the people's congresses may continue. Terminal bodily liquidation must reach the enemies of people's rule at home and abroad and anywhere. We are not afraid of anyone. We must strike with an iron hand, without clemency, pity or mercy."

Actually, the physical liquidation decrees did not begin on the same day that al-Qadhdhafi justified to the public the need to wipe out its adversaries. Nor did they begin in 1980 with the statement issued at the so-called "Third gathering of the revolutionary committees." Rather, they were preceded by a sequence of terror planned, prepared and executed over a long period of time.

In early February 1980, the liquidation plan entered the stage of execution, and Capt 'Abdallah al-Sannusi was given the responsibility of supervising the implementation of this plan outside Libya.

Assassinations in Italy

The first operation took place in Rome with the assassination of Salim al-Rutaymi, who had been a merchant in Libya before it became independent from Italy, and whose corpse was found by Italian police in a woods near the Italian capital. According to Libyan opposition sources, it appears that the Libyan citizen was enticed into the Libyan embassy, where he was assassinated.

This incident had no political overtones, and was handled there like any other murder case.

However, things subsequently changed, and Libya began announcing the assassinations which "revolutionary committee" elements were carrying out overseas, declaring its full responsibility for them.

On 19 April 1980, Yusuf al-Maslati Awhidah, one of the terrorists recently freed through the "deal" between Italy and Libya, shot at Libyan Citizen 'Abd-al-Jalil 'Arif, who was sitting with his wife and children at the Paris coffeeeshop on Via Veneto. Yusuf al-Maslati Awhidah confessed to having committed the crime, and an Italian court sentenced him to life imprisonment.

On 10 May another Libyan citizen, Muhammad al-Khazimi, was assassinated at the Torino Hotel coffeeeshop in Rome. Following the incident, Italian police arrested Muhammad Fadl al-Khazimi, the murdered man's nephew, on charges of complicity in the crime.

On 23 May of the same year, Libyan Citizen Salim al-Fazzani, proprietor of the al-Andalus Restaurant in Rome, was subjected to an assassination attempt carried out by someone by the name of Mansur Qasim, who fired at al-Fazzani three times but missed him each time.

The gunman told Italian police that he had come from Tripoli, in the company of two other persons, with instructions to execute an enemy of the revolution, saying, "The Libyan people sent me to kill him."

Ten days after this attempt, Libyan Citizen Fu'ad Abu-Hajr was assassinated in Rome. Although the Italian police never found out who did it, opposition sources affirm that Muhammad al-Masrati, an al-Qadhdhafi supporter famous for carrying out overseas assassinations, had taken part in the murder of Fu'ad Abu-Hajr.

On 11 June 1980, 'Izz-al-Din al-Hudayri was assassinated in Milano, and there was an abortive assassination attempt against Muhammad Sa'd al-Bushayti by 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Su'ayti, alias "Anbiyu." The killer was arrested and sent to prison, but was in turn liquidated in prison after eating some poisoned food given him by a Libyan "visitor."

As for Muhammad Sidqi Sa'id al-Dus and Jum'ah Muhammad al-Mizdawi, who were freed recently, they were the ones who hijacked the Kuwaiti airliner at Rome Airport on 24 February 1981 and fired upon the innocent passengers, killing one passenger and wounding four.

The two perpetrators confessed to their crime with pride. Their goal seems to have been the assassination of Muhammad al-Maqaryif, secretary general of the Libyan National Salvation Front, who was thought to be on the plane. However, the Libyan citizen was not aboard, or perhaps was not recognized, so Muhammad Sidqi Sa'id al-Dus and Jum'ah Muhammad al-Mizdawi decided to shoot any brown-skinned passengers. They were arrested and sentenced to 14 years and 11 months in prison.

These are the highlights of the assassinations and assassination attempts carried out by the Libyan terrorists who were released by the Italian authorities. However, the sequence of Libyan terror is not limited to such operations in Italy, but extends to Greece, Germany, and Britain (see the attached list).

The four Italian prisoners included in the deal with the Bettino Craxi government were Ildurado Siliciano, sentenced in 1982 by a Libyan court to execution on the charge of grand treason and plotting against the Libyan state for foreign intelligence agencies, and whose sentence was commuted to life imprisonment in 1984; Enzo Castilli, arrested at the same time as Siliciano and whose sentence was commuted in 1984 to 15 years' to life imprisonment; and Mauro Bikini and Massimo Caporelli, both sentenced to 10 years for narcotics trafficking.

How and why was this deal struck? is the question being raised by observers in the Italian capital.

The Italian Foreign Ministry stresses that this exchange was made for "humane reasons."

But this explanation has not satisfied the observers, who on this occasion recall the speech delivered by Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi last September. He delivered a clear threat to Col al-Qadhdhafi when he said, "If the rockets fired by the Libyans last April had hit Lampedusa Base (one of the bases used by the United States during its Libyan raid), al-Qadhdhafi would not be in power today."

In this speech, the Italian prime minister likened Col al-Qadhdhafi to Captain Fraccasa, an Italian pirate famous for his stupidity and simplicity.

Relations between Tripoli and Rome became strained after this incident, and Italy expelled 30 Libyan diplomats. Tripoli responded in like, expelling 25 Italian diplomats.

Relations got worse when the Italian government and Fiat officials, under pressure from Washington, offered to buy the shares, worth about US\$3 billion, which Libya held in this Italian organization. However, at that time Tripoli refused the Italian offer, and the American administration decided to prohibit Fiat from taking part in the "Star Wars" program.

So what happened to make both sides agree on this deal?

Some observers connect this deal with Libya's decision to withdraw from Fiat in return for \$3 billion, and think that the prisoner exchange was one of the secret clauses of the Fiat agreement reached last month by Rome and Tripoli.

However, one group of Italian observers tends to believe that following the slackening of Italian-Libyan relations, Italy began to return to its old "pragmatic" policy, the lines of which were laid down by Giulio Andreotti when he was prime minister, and which was summed up by former Chief of Italian Military Intelligence Gen Ambroghio Viviani when he said, "Our orders require us to protect Italian interests and prevent any disruption of the activities of the Italian National Petrochemicals Company (ENI). We have two options: either to be democratic and help the anti-Qadhafi forces, or to sacrifice our principles, defend our own interests, and support al-Qadhafi. Our political leaders have chosen the second option."

The former chief of Italian military intelligence admitted that his agency had supplied the Libyan army with military advisors, had supervised the organization of the Libyan military intelligence agency, and had prepared a special book on the subject entitled "The Structure, Organization, Roles and Duties of Intelligence."

These observers add that to this day those advisors have not been expelled.

However, does it make sense for the Italian government, which itself is opposed to terrorist operations, and whose interior and justice minister took part about 3 weeks ago in the European meeting held in London which adopted strict measures against so-called "international terrorism," to break its word and hand over three convicted terrorists who confessed that they had been sent by Col al-Qadhafi and his revolutionary committees to liquidate his political opponents?

Does it make sense for Italy to risk its relations with Washington by freeing the terrorists who hijacked the Kuwaiti airliner at Rome Airport?

And finally, is it logical that Libyan-Italian relations should improve at a time when al-Qadhafi, just hours after the prisoner exchange, described the Italian government as being "the number one enemy of the Libyan people?"

It is a fact that the interests of nations do not always follow logic and sense. Al-Qadhafi was eager for the release of the elements whom he had assigned to liquidate his adversaries, in order to prove to his supporters that he would never forsake them.

In turn, the Italian government was defending its interests in Libya, as is proven by the fact that in spite of the slackening in Libyan-Italian relations, and just one week before the Libyan terrorists were freed, the Italian government signed a cultural and educational treaty with Libya.

The question which observers are insistently raising right now is: are things returning to normal between Italy and Libya? And what will Washington's stand be?

Assassinations Overseas

Italy:

1. Salim al-Rutaymi, businessman, February 1980
2. 'Abd-al-Jalil 'Arif, businessman, 19 April 1980 (killer: Yusuf Awhidah)
3. 'Abdallah al-Khazimi, merchant, 8 May 1980
4. Muhammad Fu'ad Bu-Hajar, merchant, 20 May 1980
5. 'Izz-al-Din al-Hudayri, businessman, 11 June 1980
6. Muhammad al-Khamsi, October 1984

Britain:

1. Muhammad Mustafa Ramadan, radio announcer and writer, 11 April 1980 (Killers: Bin al-Hasan al-Masri, Najib al-Qasimi)
2. Mahmud 'Abd-al-Salam Nafi', lawyer, 25 April 1980 (Killer: Mabruk al-Jadal)
3. Ahmad 'Abd-al-Salam Burqay'ah, student, 29 November 1980 (Killers: 'Ali al-Fayturi al-Dib, 'Aqil Karim, Ibrahim Lamlum)

Greece:

1. Abu-Bakr 'Abd-al-Rahman, emigre, 21 May 1980 (Killers: Muhammad Sa'd, later found murdered in his cell, 'Abdallah Ba-al-Hajj, Nur-al-Din al-Mahmudi)
2. Salih al-Shutayti, businessman, 21 June 1984
3. 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawi, student, 3 July 1984
4. Salah al-Qurtas, student, 3 July 1984
5. Ahmad al-Barrani, businessman, 1 April 1985

Germany:

1. 'Umran al-Mahdawi, businessman, 10 May 1980 (Killer: Bashir al-Maydah)
2. Jibril al-Danyali, political refugee, 6 April 1985 (Killer: Khalifah Milad)

Lebanon:

1. 'Abd-al-Latif al-Muntasir, employee, 21 April 1980

Saudi Arabia:

1. Shaykh Dr Mabruk al-Tarhuni, preacher, October 1985

Assassination Attempts

1. Attempted kidnapping and assassination of Dr Mahmud al-Maghribi, former prime minister, in Britain, 1978
2. Attempted poisoning of 7-year-old 'Abd-al-Karim Qasudah and 8-year-old Su'ad Qasudah, on 7 November 1980 in Britain (Suspect: Husni al-Sayd Farhat)
3. Attempted murder of Libyans demonstrating in front of the Libyan embassy, 17 April 1984, in Britain

4. Attempted assassination of Salim al-Fazzani, restauranteur, on 21 May 1980 in Italy (Accused: Mansur Ba-al-Qasim)
5. Attempted assassination of Muhammad Sa'd al-Bushayti, on 11 June 1980 (Accused: 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Su'ayti, later found murdered in his cell)
6. Attempted assassination of Maj 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Huni, former member of the Libyan Command Council, in June 1980 in Italy
7. Attempted assassination of Sulayman Dahhan, journalist, in 1980 in Italy
8. Attempted assassination of Dr Muhammad al-Maqaryif, secretary general of the National Salvation Front, on 23 November 1981 in Italy
9. Attempted assassination of Yusuf 'Aqilah, businessman, on 1 April 1985 in Italy
10. Attempted assassination of Mahmud al-Burjini, owner of the Arab radio and television network in Rome, on 15 February 1986 in Italy
11. Attempted assassination of Maj 'Umar al-Muhayshi, former member of the Libyan Command Council, in 1979, in Egypt
12. Attempted assassination of 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Bakkush, former prime minister, on 16 November 1984, in Egypt
13. Attempted assassination of Ghayth al-Tarhuni, businessman, in August 1985, in Egypt (Accused: Idris al-Harbawi and Faraj Yasin)
14. Attempted assassination of Libyan opposition leaders, November 1985, in Egypt (Accused: Saqr 'Abdallah, Yusuf al-'Urfi, Farhat al-Ta'ili, and Muhammad Sharubah)
15. Attempted assassination of Yusuf 'Aqilah, businessman, on 6 October 1985 in Greece
16. Attempted assassination of Farid al-Qartili, businessman, on 14 November 1984, in Greece (Accused: Muhammad al-Ghuryani)
17. Attempted assassination of Dr Faysal al-Zaqla'i, on 14 October 1980, in America

Help From Italian Intelligence

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Oct 86 p 15

[Article: "Al-Qadhdhafi--the Son of Italian Intelligence"]

[Text] This was the headline on the cover of the 12 May 1986 issue of the Italian PANORAMA magazine, which carried a photograph of Gen Viviani, chief of Italian military intelligence during the Seventies, as well as a photograph of Col al-Qadhdhafi.

The cover article dealt with secret Italian-Libyan relations during that period, and included an interview with Gen Viviani revealing some of the secrets of Italian-Libyan relations.

The former chief of Italian intelligence said, "What we had in mind was to prove to Col al-Qadhdhafi that he could rely on us as sincere friends. For example, we purged the Italian scene of many opposition figures."

He added, "Our contacts in Rome were with an intelligence official in the Libyan embassy called Musa Salim al-Hajji, and with a member of the Libyan Command Council who was in Tripoli at the time."

In response to a question about the operations which he had supervised, Gen Viviani said, "The first operation, the "Black Prince" operation, was in January 1980, whereby a member of Italian intelligence thwarted an operation prepared by 'Abdallah 'Abid which involved sending a group of his men to Libya to stir up unrest within the country. We informed the Libyan authorities at the proper time, and the group was arrested by al-Qadhdhafi's guards, who were waiting for them on the Libyan shore."

Gen Viviani referred to some of the services which his agency provided the colonel, saying, "We sold arms to the colonel, many arms, and we organized an intelligence agency for him in his country, and we sent experts to help train the army (approximately 50 experts). I also sent him translations of the most essential books used by the Italian army, and personally wrote up several studies, one of which was "How To Set Up, Organize and Use Secret Services" and another of which was "How To Set Up, Organize, and Use a Paratrooper Team."

The general concluded his interview by saying, "A force trained in this way will create highly-specialized individuals ready to undertake sabotage and guerrilla warfare missions in hostile territory."

In this context, some observers well-informed on Libyan affairs are wondering whether an investigation into al-Qadhdhafi's relations with Italian intelligence might not explain some aspects of the deal by which the three Libyan terrorists were released.

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CSO: 4504/50

SUDAN

INTERVIEW WITH AL-SADIQ AL-MAHDI AT END OF U.S. VISIT

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 18 Oct 86 pp 11-13

[Interview with Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, at the end of his U.S. visit, by Khalid Matar: "There is Hope for Ending the Gulf War"; Washington, date not given]

[Text] After every visit that any prominent Arab official makes to the United Nations or the United States, or to both of them, AL-TADAMUN turns to the journalists and officials in whatever area it may be to ask them their opinion about this or that personality. The comments vary between "good," "not bad," "not significant," and "this is the first time we have made his acquaintance," or other comments that are hardly more than a quick word concerning this or that person.

However, the visit of Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the prime minister of the Sudan, left many impressions, the least of these being that "he had influence and was able to draw listeners to concentrate on what he was saying." His speech before the UN General Assembly had the widest response witnessed by any speech given before this session, so that a Western diplomat, unable to restrain himself, told AL-TADAMUN, "The Sudanese prime minister's speech gave vitality to a session at which the age of the United Nations had appeared to be, not 41 years, but 91 years. He restored youthful vigor to the old age of this organization."

Although the words of this respected diplomat at the United Nations were not the only thing said about this speech, the impression that Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi left with American officials was so important that these officials were forced to make immediate decisions going beyond the framework that had been set in the papers that had been prepared for their meetings with al-Mahdi.

AL-TADAMUN, which al-Mahdi received on the day he first arrived in New York and which expressed to him the condolences of its family to his family on the occasion of the death of his brother and cousin, was the last to say goodbye to the Sudanese prime minister when he left the United States from Edwards Air Force Base in the suburbs of Washington. Also present were the staff of the Sudanese embassy in Washington, headed by Ambassador Salah Ahmad Muhammad

Salih, in addition to a number of members of the overseas Sudanese community, headed by Dr 'Ali Khalid al-Husayn, an administrator at the United Nations.

The conservation began in Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's suite in the Hotel Madison in Washington and continued during the trip to the airport in his car, which was surrounded by American police who had been given orders to treat the Sudanese prime minister as he had been treated by American officials--as a head of state, not as a prime minister. During the conversation, al-Sadiq al-Mahdi departed from his reserve in previous meetings and spoke for the first time in detail about the "Islamic awakening," as will be seen below. He also revealed to AL-TADAMUN the fundamental points on the basis of which dialogue with Garang had been conducted.

Although no conversation with Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi can be adequate unless the journalist has been able to sit with him for many hours over cups of tea to catch a glimpse from him about the urgent reality and long-range outlook for the Sudan, with logic, definiteness, and detail, this conversation served as a beginning that Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi insisted should not stop.

Finally, a comment needs to be made: In addition to the official delegation, Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was accompanied by his wife, Mrs Sarah al-Fadil, who desired to accompany him in most of the stages of his visit, in spite of her illness. After the Sudanese delegation left, Mrs Sarah al-Fadil remained in the United States to continue her treatment, which was the original reason for which she came to the United States.

Here is the text of the conversation:

[Question] First, could you evaluate for us your visit to the United Nations?

[Answer] The Sudan used to appear in the United Nations with a monotonous, dull image bound to particular alignment policies. On this occasion, however, we believe that the new Sudan appeared before the international organization with a new image, heralding a democratic mission, and a greater role for the underdeveloped and oppressed countries in international responsibilities, and rousing the international family to carry out its role in many areas.

I believe that this appearance of the new image and mission of the Sudan before the international family was important in light of the Sudan's liberation and emancipation from the bonds of the past.

[Question] And your visit to the United States?

[Answer] As for the United States, the relationship the previous regime established with the United States was one that did not serve the interests of the two peoples, either from the Sudan's point of view or from America's. It was based on foundations not approved by the Sudanese people and therefore weak. However, we have now corrected the basis of relations with the United States, so that they start from an initial premise of nonalignment in our international policy and development of mutual interests between the Sudan and the United States.

The conception that many people held was that the United States was helping the Sudan in order to carry out its policies. We believe that when American aid reaches the Sudan, the framework in which we accept this aid is the framework of there being mutual interests and that existing relations take their point of departure from these mutual interests. We want really to change the relations of dependency that existed between the Sudan and many countries, so that the Sudan can restore health to its national economy, and so that this economy--as was the case before the Numayri regime--will be able to sustain the Sudanese citizen and produce the crops and exports that can in fact cover the Sudan's actual needs for imports.

The important thing is that these views, which move the basis of the relationship from one state to another, found, in my opinion, clear expression and a response from the American side. I can say that the basis of Sudanese-American relations now is a basis that the Sudanese people can accept and approve. This basis is what gives strength to these relations and makes their development a real possibility.

[Question] What makes you believe that Washington can change its opinion about a government that overthrew a regime that was carrying out for Washington everything it wanted?

[Answer] First, that regime cost Washington too much: it cost it the most important thing, the confidence and friendship of the Sudanese people. The relationship now does not exist, as it used to, at the expense of the Sudanese people. In my opinion, this is important, especially in a country like the United States, that knows the role of public opinion and knows the role of the people.

Second, America knew that the regime of Ja'far Numayri, although it was a regime completely obedient to America in foreign policy, was, in return for what it offered, taking liberty to act with a good deal of ineptitude domestically, thus bringing America and the relationship with America a good deal of criticism and disrepute.

The situation is different now. The current Sudanese government is based on freedom of choice and on accountability and openness to questioning by the people. Neither America nor any other democratic country need be embarrassed to deal with such a regime. While it is true that the present government follows an independent foreign policy and criticizes American policy where it is wrong, the American government is accustomed to this amount of criticism even from its own media.

I think that the American administration, after some hesitation regarding the new situation in the Sudan, sensed that the situation had a high degree of credibility as regards its principles and policies and decided to work with it on the basis of this choice. Of course, America did not choose to replace Ja'far Numayri; what replaced Ja'far Numayri was the Sudanese people. America had to calculate: Should it defend him, or would it be better to work with the situation the Sudanese people had chosen?

[Question] How can America respect the Sudanese situation of which you speak, at the same time some of its officials are confronting you with the Falasha

question and asking you, directly or indirectly, to continue the operation that Numayri began?

[Answer] No American official asked that from me. No American official mentioned it. They completely understood our position about it. Those who brought up the subject were a few senators. I think they brought it up because it was something they wanted to tell their voters they had mentioned to the Sudanese prime minister, and not because they really expected a serious discussion of the question.

[Question] What tangible support did American officials promise you?

[Answer] We asked no support, and no one promised me any. What took place was a correction of the basis of the relationship and agreement on a firm basis for it. The other questions can be dealt with through other meetings and contacts. My basic concern on this occasion was to confirm the new basis for the relationship and to make sure of its acceptance for the sake of the future development of relations.

[Question] It has been noted that you visited the United States following a previous visit to the Soviet Union. In both cases, you did not meet with the leaders disposed to meetings of powerful men. To what do you ascribe this?

[Answer] I do not think meetings with Gorbachev and Reagan were important in relation to what the two visits achieved. I met the relevant officials in both countries. I believe those I met in the two countries completely represent their government's policy, and I believe that the agreement reached in both cases represents what I want to accomplish on the level of relations between us and these two countries.

[Question] During your visit to the Soviet Union, you insisted on performing the Feast of Immolation prayer in Tashkent. We might therefore compare this with the pope's visits to the socialist countries, in the course of which he performed congregational prayers in public in order to revive religious feelings. Is this true? Moreover, did you sense the beginning of an Islamic awakening in the Soviet Union?

[Answer] I think that ever since there were signs of the existence of an Islamic awakening, the Soviet Union has tended to allow a certain scope for contacts between the Muslims of Central Asia and the Muslims of the world. I believe, however, that on these occasions they have wanted the contacts to be between Muslims of the Soviet Union and religious figures from the other Islamic countries. This time, however, they went beyond this commitment by allowing a person of political and official character to undertake this contact. I believe that in the encouragement of this visit and the permission for it there lies a kind of recognition of the religious ties that ought to exist between Muslims in all parts of the world. I think it represents a step forward on the way to allowing room for cultural and religious cross-fertilization between Muslims within the Soviet Union and Muslims outside of it.

[Question] Where is the Islamic awakening now?

[Answer] The Islamic awakening has taken many forms: intellectual, political, and other forms. It is a phenomenon that has embraced the Islamic world since the late seventies until the present day and has taken, as I said, various forms: some of them intellectual, some political, some cultural, some literary, and some artistic.

[Question] You have good relations with the Iranian leadership and owe a great debt to the Iranian government. You have visited Iran and Iraq, and you also have good relations with President Saddam Husayn. Can you now see the existence of a possibility for solving the current problems between Iran and the Arabs?

[Answer] The situation is complicated because many circumstances enter into consideration. I personally believe that we constitute an element that can discuss these problems from potentially positive and fruitful angles. Out of a desire for this, I have personally decided not to talk to much about what we might accomplish in this area. I believe we have a great deal of information, a great deal of knowledge of the causes and depth of the problems, and a great deal of contact with each of the parties involved. Perhaps, these facts can help toward possibly reaching a peaceful way out of this historical impasse.

[Question] It seems that you are more optimistic regarding this problem than any other party.

[Answer] I do not know whether it is optimism. However, I believe that I am starting from a real desire to create foundations for uniting Muslims around an Islamic charter. This is not a subject on which I am talking superficially. I have prepared myself and done studies on it. Based on deep consideration, I believe there is hope for creating a way out of the current historical impasse.

[Question] And this way out is Islamic?

[Answer] Naturally. The essence of the idea is that the way out is to create a basis for unity between Muslims as Muslims, as well as to create a means for peaceful and friendly coexistence between the Arabs and the Persians as two nationalities that had their most glorious days under the auspices of Islam.

[Question] Do you not think there is a contradiction between this and what can be done today, as well as with what you are personally working for in order to resolve the problem of the South of the Sudan? And then there are the remaining Christian minorities in the Arab world.

[Answer] Not at all; there is no contradiction. We desire a peaceful solution with the non-Muslim and Christian minorities, especially in the South of the Sudan, not on the basis of abrogating our Islamic identity, but by creating a formula to comprehend different identities within a common framework. This means that when we talk with our Southern brothers now, we do not talk on the basis of wanting that we should strip off our Islamic skins and they their Christian ones, but rather that as regards the Sudan we should comprehend different affiliations within a framework of belonging to one fatherland. We believe the role we ought to play in creating a means to unify Muslims religiously, in removing the causes of dissension between Sunnis and

Shi'ites, and in creating a solution that will stop religious strife, does not conflict with our desire and eagerness to create a formula for a Sudanese citizenship that would unite Muslim and non-Muslim Sudanese within the framework of the unity of the Sudan. There is no man who is cut off from his origins. Man, all men, have their origins and roots. We want to work toward there being no conflict between these roots and origins, no conflict that might prevent the existence of a common country and fatherland. We believe this is a duty for us to perform. I wrote a booklet on this question, "Islam and the Question of the South of the Sudan." In it, I clarified the possibility of creating a formula under which people of different religious affiliations could be included in an affiliation to one fatherland.

[Question] Have you taken this idea to other parties in the Arab world, particularly to Saudi Arabia, and what was their response? Has the project for Islamic unity been drawn up yet?

[Answer] This is a subject that I have discussed with religious scholars. At the present level, it is not for discussion with states. It was discussed with religious scholars so that studies could be done and concepts formulated concerning how Muslims might overcome the causes of their disagreements. We want to play our Islamic, Arab, African, and Sudanese national role. We believe there is no contradiction between these roles. Rather, political and intellectual genius lies in our finding means whereby we can play our positive role--Sudanese national, Islamic, Arab, and African--in a way that will remove the causes of contradiction and concentrate on the causes of harmony.

[Question] Let us return briefly to the problem of the Sudan. You have called for a constitutional convention to solve the Southern problem. What practical steps have been taken thus far, and what practical program are you proposing for a solution of this problem?

[Answer] To start with, we created a ministry called "the Ministry of Peace," to be the executive arm working on convening the national constitutional convention. This national constitutional convention will consider four principal issues in order to create a basic equation relating to them. These are:

1. The question of religion and the state, or religion and politics.
2. The question of Arab and African affiliation.
3. The question of the just distribution of wealth.
4. The question of just sharing in authority.

There is basic agreement that these issues are the core of what needs to be discussed and agreed on in order to create a new formula on which the Sudanese fatherland can be built.

We are now holding discussions with all Sudanese parties within the country, Northern or Southern, in preparation for this convention. A national committee will be set up to issue invitations to the convention and to determine who will attend. We have contacted the rebel group led by John

Garang and believe that their position is no different from that of other groups in agreeing on the fact that these points are the important ones. Discussion was under way with them concerning preparatory measures for convening the convention and for their participation in it. There were five points around which preparatory discussion was centered, and the position regarding them was as follows:

The first point involved agreement by the parties involved that the question to be discussed was a national question, not a regional one. This was agreed on.

The second point was the question of lifting the state of emergency. Agreement was reached on linking this question to the sixth point in the program, a cease-fire. Thus, the question would be as follows: Lifting the state of emergency at the time of a cease-fire.

The third point involved repealing the September Laws. This was agreed on. The difference was that we thought the September Laws should be replaced by new laws, while they demanded that they be replaced by the laws that preceded the September legislation. There was agreement that they should participate in the alternative laws so that there would be agreement on them. In any case, there is agreement on repealing the September Laws, although the alternative was a matter of disagreement.

The fourth point involves the interim constitution. They thought the interim constitution ought to be the 1956 constitution, as amended in 1964. We made it clear that the present interim constitution of the Sudan is indeed "the 1956 constitution, as amended in 1964," with a difference in Article Four, the article dealing with the sources of legislation. Agreement is now taking place in the Sudan, so that Article Four can be agreed on. Thus, there is no great disagreement in this regard also.

The fifth point concerns repealing the military agreements--meaning, of course, the military agreement with Egypt. This agreement was essentially put on ice even during the time of Numayri. Talk about repealing it is really superfluous, since the agreement has no existence now.

The important thing is that these fundamental principles were the ones on which agreement was almost reached in preparation for the national constitutional convention and for the participation of Garang's movement in it. However, before the agreement could be completed, Garang's group downed the civilian airplane on 16 August. As a result of the downing of the airplane, the Sudanese government took the position that this group was not in earnest, and we broke off all contacts with it. We will not renew any contact with them, unless they demonstrate their seriousness and show that they can freely make a decision on these questions.

[Question] Why has there not been direct discussion with Ethiopia in this case?

[Answer] There has been direct discussion with Ethiopia. We have offered them a comprehensive peace agreement for the Horn of Africa, but until now no response has come from them. We are waiting for some message from them.

SUDAN

INTERVIEW WITH DUP LEADER AL-MIRGHANI

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 18 Oct 86 pp 8-10

[Interview with Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party and head of the Khatmiyah, by 'Uthman Mirghani: "There Is No Disagreement Within the Coalition, Peace in the South Will Not Come From Weakness"; London, date not given]

[Text] Although the visit of Mr Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, head of the Khatmiyah and leader of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] in the Sudan, was a private visit, during which Mr al-Mirghani--contrary to what some newspapers published--did not engage in any political activities, he accorded AL-TADAMUN an interview marked by much frankness and clarity in answering questions dealing with the various burning issues of interest to Sudan and to the Arabs who are watching events on various levels in the Sudan, whether on the level of the democratic experiment or on the level of the attempts to tear this nation apart and draw it away from growth and development. Here is the text of the interview.

[Question] It is now 5 months since the elected government took office. As a member of the ruling coalition, what are the things you believe have been achieved and realized during this period?

[Answer] Changing the conditions that prevailed under the past regime will require great effort and time until matters return to their original course and Sudanese life in all its aspects is put in proper order. It was essential for the new democratic government to move according to specific priorities and to begin by lifting the burden of suffering from the masses. It has indeed succeeded in providing citizens with many of the basic necessities and requisites. It has issued bold decisions guaranteeing the prevention of smuggling out of and into Sudan and of food speculation. These decisions should finally put an end to the speculation and corruption that characterized the now defunct regime and that led to a crisis in the markets and a shortage of basic necessities for the citizens.

Along with these steps taken by the government to alleviate the burden of subsistence, Sudan--praise be to God--enjoyed a good agricultural harvest in the past year, and we hope that the current agricultural season will also be good. If this turns out to be the case, we shall be able, with God's help and favor, to guarantee the people and the Sudan's good production and financial returns.

Also in the context of achievements, the government made great strides in firmly establishing democratic practice. It has guaranteed freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, and justice. It has even guaranteed those who thwarted democracy during the time of the May regime a just trial, all of whose sessions will be broadcast and televised.

As is well-known, the present government arose by virtue of a pact between the DUP and the National Ummah Party. This pact stipulates that the hateful traces of the May regime should be done away with. The government has recently proposed to the parliamentary delegations of the two parties a bill for a constitutional amendment that would enable the government to do away with corruption and punish its perpetrators. There is also a bill to amend the laws enacted under the now defunct regime--laws that were a distorted experiment in what they allowed themselves to call "the rule of Islamic law." These amendments will be the topic of discussion and debate during the coming period, so that the two parties can arrive at an agreed-upon formula that will afterwards be submitted to the Constituent Assembly for approval.

In the area of security, conditions generally worsened under the former regime. This deterioration continued during the transition period. The government is now making a great effort to improve the ability and numbers of the armed forces, so as to protect the security of citizens in all areas of the country. The government is trying to spread confidence among citizens in the South, to open the airports that were closed after the downing of the civilian plane, to open overland roads, and to operate the railroad to the city of War. It is trying to guarantee that food supplies and medicines reach the South, since, in some areas of southern Sudan, food and medicine had become scarce due to the recently escalated positions taken by the rebel forces. This is threatening a large number of citizens there with famine and the spread of diseases. In this area, the government is also carrying on contacts with neighboring states to guarantee that there are means of transportation and transport and that food supplies reach the various areas in the south of Sudan, especially Equatoria.

In the area of what has been achieved, one can also say that the government, at the level of the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers, has begun to move in the Arab and African arenas to restore the position of Sudan to what it was before the May 1969 coup. It was a position that was positive and that was influential in the Arab, African, and Islamic worlds and in the Third World as a whole.

[Question] The government recently announced the names of the new governors of the northern regions. What are the reasons that prevented an agreement on appointing the governors of the southern regions from being reached?

[Answer] Negotiations are now going on with the key political figures in the three southern regions to choose the governors. Announcement of the southern governors has been delayed because of a disagreement in viewpoint among the southern parties. It is a disagreement connected with an old question from which the rebellion led by John Garang arose. Among the causes of the

rebellion was Numayri's decision to divide the South into three regions, based on a request from certain southern leaders for the establishment of a decentralized system in the Southern Region.

This problem emerged anew during discussions on choosing the governor and deputy governor of the Southern Region. Some parties in the Southern Region called for the continuation of the system of three regions and for the appointment of a governor for each region. Other groups called for a return to the system of one region, based on the provisions of the Addis Ababa agreement. Extended discussion took place between the two parties of the government coalition (DUP and Ummah) and the key political figures in the South to reach a solution to this problem through agreement of all interested parties in the south of the Sudan. God be praised that agreement was reached on establishing a Southern Region Coordinating Council that will have a chairman and will include the governors of the three regions, in accordance with the constitution. The DUP and the Ummah Party presented this proposal, and the southern parties accepted it.

[Question] What is your evaluation of relations between the two members of the ruling coalition (the DUP and the Ummah Party)? Will the coalition be able to overcome the disagreements that stand in its way?

[Answer] The coalition arose for the sake of the Sudan and will continue, God willing. There are many duties and great obligations resting on this coalition, beginning with rescuing the Sudan from its fall and bringing it to the high ground of strength, self-esteem, and honor, and ending with the realization of a decent life for its citizens. These responsibilities and national directions are the purpose and goal that rise above every disagreement, if such exists.

[Question] It is well known that there is a difference in viewpoint between you and the Ummah Party on the subject of Islamic law. How will you handle this matter? Is the delay in announcing the laws to replace the September Laws (the Islamic laws implemented by the regime of former President Ja'far Numayri) due to a disagreement in viewpoint between the two members of the ruling coalition?

[Answer] As I mentioned previously, there are bills now being prepared by the public prosecutor. They will be brought up for discussion within the organization and among the leaders of both parties in order to reach an appropriate formula. Then they will be submitted to the Constituent Assembly for discussion and approval. On this basis, there is no disagreement now. As long as the matter is subjected to discussion and debate, eventual agreement is inevitable.

[Question] In light of the escalation that has occurred in the south of the Sudan, especially after the downing of the civilian airplane, do you see any possibility for an understanding with Colonel John Garang?

[Answer] We are striving to bring about peace in the south of the country and to stop the bloodshed and waste of energies and abilities in fruitless struggles. Our position is that the effort to bring about peace must continue, but from a position of strength, not from one of weakness and pleading. After the overthrow of Numayri and with the end of the transition period and the establishment of a democratic government, all the excuses used by the elements of the rebellion have become invalid.

Many facts about the rebellion in the South are being obliterated. Some people like to picture the rebellion movement as a progressive movement. Others picture it as a movement against Arab Islamic hegemony. In reality, the recent rebellion began the day Numayri embarked on dividing the South into three regions. In the wake of that action, the problems in the South developed, and Colonel John Garang and associates took to the jungle and then to Ethiopia. This reality ought to be clear and evident to everyone, because it contains the answer to what is being said in certain circles today about the rebellion movement, as well as to some of the claims raised by the movement itself. The rebellion began because of the objection to partition. The problem was entirely due to tribal disputes between the advocates and opponents of partition. It had no relation to a disagreement about religions or the dominance of one race over another. The rebellion movement led by John Garang began before Numayri had thought about what he called "his Islamic attitudes." Later, elements of the rebellion used Numayri's laws to try to gain the sympathy of the church and the West, just as they turned their Marxist project to advantage in gaining support from the East and in establishing their foothold in Ethiopia.

In any case, we appeal to Colonel John Garang and his associates to reconsider their positions in light of the welfare of the Sudan and its people. They should stop all forms of hostility and confrontation so that everybody can sit down in harmony to solve the problems and difficulties of the country and the citizens. Our effort to bring about peace will not cease as long as there is a ray of hope. At the same time, we shall not neglect the security of the Sudan and the safety of its citizens.

[Question] Are there contacts between the leaders of the DUP and John Garang?

[Answer] Before the formation of the present democratic government, I sent a letter to Colonel John Garang to lay the foundation for a meeting between the DUP and Colonel Garang's group. It was hoped that a meeting would take place at that stage so that everybody would cooperate with the incipient new democracy in solving the difficult problems that came to a head under the Numayri regime.

The fact is that I am now speaking about this letter for the first time. As for Colonel John Garang, he spoke about it in an interview with the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR this August.

Indirect contacts between Colonel John Garang and us continued until early this August; however, after the downing of the civilian airplane in Malakal, these contacts stopped. We hope they will be resumed when a suitable climate obtains.

[Question] Do you believe that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's recent visit to the Sudan and his mediation with Ethiopia will lead to the achievement of any progress related to the subject of the war in the South?

[Answer] In general, the visit was to reinforce ties and links between the two brother countries. Views were exchanged during it on relations between Sudan and the Libyan Jamahiriya. The discussion also touched on the Arab situation and the need to work for the unity of Arab ranks. Our brother, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, showed understanding for the Sudan's position and point of view on the current Arab situation.

On the question of the war in the South, our brother, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, expressed his support for Sudan and his intention to work with all interested parties to stop the fighting in the south of Sudan. He had already taken a stand after the fall of the Numayri regime by announcing the halting of support for the forces of the rebellion in the South. We are still waiting to hear the results of his efforts with the other affected parties to stop the fighting in the South.

[Question] Is there a difference in viewpoint between you and the Ummah Party on relations with Egypt?

[Answer] There is none. Whether in the DUP or in the Ummah Party, everybody believes in the links and ties that join the Sudan to its brother country, Egypt.

[Question] Then how do you explain the fact that the DUP leaders, including Mr Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, Mr Ahmad al-Mirghani, and al-Sharif Zayn-al-'Abidin al-Hindi, have repeated their visit to Egypt, while Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has not visited Egypt since the elections? Are the Democratic Unionists making these visits to preserve a certain balance in the government's foreign relations?

[Answer] The visits by Mr Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the Supreme Council, and by Mr Zayn-al-'Abidin al-Hindi, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, were to reinforce links and ties and to remove the defects in Sudanese-Egyptian relations. As far as I know, there is an invitation to Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi from Egypt, and he will respond to it.

Here I must point out that visits and discussions, whether on the part of the chairman of the Supreme Council, the prime minister, or the deputy prime minister, do not express the opinion of these men's parties; they reflect the viewpoint of the government. Certain people should not be so sensitive in this area. Any Sudanese official who makes a foreign visit does so in the name of the government, not in the name of a party. If the visit accomplishes the desired purpose, it would be meaningless to repeat it.

[Question] Will the question of handing over former President Ja'far Numayri remain an obstacle to improving relations between Khartoum and Cairo, or do you see a way out of this problem?

[Answer] Handing over Numayri is a clear popular demand. We have communicated our view to our brothers in Egypt: Numayri must be handed over to be tried justly for the crimes he committed against the nation and against the citizens. We demanded this during our August 1985 visit to Egypt and presented the demand to the government and all the Egyptian political parties.

The government has now turned to the Egyptian courts for the issuance of a judgment in the matter. We are waiting for the results of this position.

[Question] The first foreign visit of the chairman of the Supreme Council, Ahmad al-Mirghani, was to Saudi Arabia, and this was followed by visits of Sudanese officials to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Is there significance to these successive visits to Saudi Arabia?

[Answer] The link with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a solid one and is growing stronger and firmer as time goes on. Saudi Arabia and its ruler, King Fahd ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, have helped the Sudan in all the critical situations through which it has passed. Under its new administration, the Sudan has expressed its gratitude and appreciation for these stands by having the first foreign visit by the chairman of the Supreme Council be to Saudi Arabia. The continued succession of visits to Saudi Arabia by Sudanese officials merely expresses the growth of relations between the two countries.

[Question] In light of its new regime, what role can the Sudan play in the Arab arena?

[Answer] We hope Sudan will play the role it played in the past, uniting Arab ranks and doing away with the disagreements that dominated the Arab arena during the sixties. This role emerged in the 1967 Arab summit conference in Khartoum.

We believe that under the previous regime, Sudan lost the preeminent position it used to enjoy in the Arab World, Africa, and the Third World as a whole. Now, through moves in the Arab arena and through careful study of the new situations that have developed in the Arab World and of current differences and their causes, Sudan will follow a policy that we hope will succeed in realizing a minimum of Arab harmony. It was on this basis that the chairman and members of the Supreme Council and the chairman and members of the Ministerial Council were anxious to move, making clear the position of Sudan and its great desire to reunite the Arabs and unify their voice, for the liberation of stolen Arab land and Jerusalem and for the victory of the Palestinian cause.

[Question] Can we move to talk a bit about the situation of the DUP? In the recent elections, the party lost some of its races and suffered great damage from divisions and disagreements. Its general convention has not yet been held. Are you going to take action to bandage these wounds and perhaps give the party a new face?

[Answer] The DUP's loss of several of its races in the recent elections was due to several factors, some of which were internal, some external. These factors have become well known and clear to everyone.

We have now moved into a period of rebuilding the party. A steering committee has been formed to hold the party's regional conventions and the general convention. The committee will hold the first of its meetings this month. Afterwards, a series of regional conventions will begin, leading to the party general convention. We have laid down five fundamentals on which organizational work is to proceed: legislation, organization, consultation, commitment, and modernization.

As for the elements that withdrew from the DUP, they are in continual dissension and disunity. The people passed judgment on them in the recent elections.

[Question] The direct role that you are playing in the management of party affairs, as well as the position of Mr Ahmad al-Mirghani as chairman of the Supreme Council, have been two novel phenomena for the leadership of the Khatmiyah, which, unlike the Mahdiyah, has usually stayed out of direct political activity. Has the Khatmiyah leadership changed its method and decided to participate directly in politics?

[Answer] Islamic activity and national activity should be considered one interwoven fabric, no strand of which can be separated from the other. As for the DUP, before I assumed the party leadership after Mr 'Ali al-Mirghani passed away in 1968, I was a member of the political bureau of the party. I was also Mr 'Ali al-Mirghani's representative in all party activities and consultations at that time. Because of Mr 'Ali al-Mirghani's condition and age at that time, I used to carry many burdens in the party at his commission and as his deputy. After the death of our leader, Mr 'Ali al-Mirghani, I became head of the party. I continued to do what I had been doing, in addition to the new burdens that were entrusted to me. At that time, I participated fully in the party's election campaigns, despite the circumstances of Mr 'Ali al-Mirghani's death.

Following the death of President Isma'il al-Azhari, I announced in a eulogy for him that the flag would never be allowed to fall. And, in fact, I carried the flag and bore responsibility in those difficult circumstances when opposition to the then new regime was in its beginnings. The speech I delivered in eulogy of President al-Azhari helped break down the wall of fear people felt and was like a first confrontation with the regime.

Throughout the period of opposition at home and abroad, I was the person to whom those in the domestic opposition turned, foremost among them being the late Shaykh 'Ali 'Abd-al-Rahman. I was also the person to whom those abroad turned, foremost among them being the late al-Sharif Husayn al-Hindi. Also, class and professional groups were in close touch with us throughout the period of activity in opposition to the now overthrown regime. It is no secret that the first meetings of the Sudanese opposition leaders of the various different political tendencies took place during 1970 in our family's house in Mecca.

What I would like to say is that new burdens were entrusted to me after the death of Mr 'Ali al-Mirghani and even more burdens after the death of

President al-Azhari. Also, because the party was in the opposition to the regime, there were other responsibilities that I assumed. My position now as head of the DUP is merely the continuation of the burdens I assumed in the past and that I continue to undertake now. This position did not come out of a void. It came gradually and uninterruptedly. There is nothing novel in this for the leadership of the Khatmiyah, given its role as an Islamic and a national leadership.

As for Mr Ahmad al-Mirghani, he was a member of the Political Bureau and of the Committee of Eight (the party leadership). He was also a member of the Finance Committee headed by Ibrahim al-Mufti. Upon the establishment of the DUP, President al-Azhari proposed that he be with him in the Governing Council at that time, but he excused himself because Mr Khidr Hamd held the position at that time. As a citizen, it was his right to be nominated for this office; the parliamentary delegation of the DUP did indeed nominate him, and the Ummah Party agreed to the nomination.

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TUNISIA

BACKGROUNDS OF NEW AMBASSADORS REVIEWED

Tunis AL-ANWAR AL-TUNISIYAH in Arabic 12 Oct 86 p 3

[Article by National Affairs Editor: "A Reading in the Movement of Ambassadors"]

[Text] The latest set of reassessments involving a number of our embassies abroad has been expected since the beginning of the summer, but it was delayed somewhat so as to conform particularly to the change that occurred at the top of the Tunisian diplomatic corps, with the arrival of Mr Hedi Mabrouk as minister of foreign affairs, replacing Mr Beji Caid Essebsi.

In fact, the latest reassessments did not reveal any surprises in the names nominated, since they were known beforehand. The change had more to do especially with the capitals involved. An example is Mr Mongi Kooli, who was nominated for the post of ambassador in a number of capitals, including, for example, Rome and London. His appointment to Prague clearly demonstrates the desire of the president and the government to continue to maintain strong relations with the East bloc, in line with the even-handedness that characterizes Tunisia's relations with different countries regardless of orientation.

Mr Mongi Kooli was for many years a minister and a member of the political council, and in particular head of the Destourian Party and general secretary of the Union of Socialist Parties.

Through his position as head of the party administration, he was able to establish relations with a number of parties in socialist countries. People may not know that Mr Mongi Kooli held the post of secretary of state for foreign affairs from September 1974 to May 1976, while the ministry was under Mr Habib Chatti.

The Return

The second stage of these reassessments involves Mr Mahmoud Mestiri, who lived and was trained in the diplomatic corps in the many high-level positions that he occupied in embassies or at the ministry in Tunis, as general secretary of the ministry, then as secretary of state for foreign affairs for a period of not less than 4 years.

In fact, before his return to Tunisia at the beginning of the eighties, Mr Mahmoud Mestiri was an ambassador representing Tunisia at the United Nations. There he had achieved a number of accomplishments that one could well call victories for Tunisian diplomacy.

Perhaps the most prominent of these victories was Mr Mahmoud Mestiri's assumption of the leadership of the 77 Group for a long time as well as being head of the Arab and African groups within it for periods that were not insignificant. With his return to New York, Mr Mahmoud Mestiri left the government after having been a part of it as a member who occupied without interruption the post of secretary of state for foreign affairs, under the previous minister Mr Mr Beji Caid Essebsi for at least 4 years.

In Paris

This leaves our embassy in Paris, which, after a number of nominations on paper, eventually went to Mr Mustapha Zaanouni. This is something of a surprise, especially since his name was not announced in the first day on which the reassessments were announced. It is clear that President Habib Bourguiba, who was anxious to pick the right man, took the time necessary to find him, especially since he needs to have a number of qualities and abilities, perhaps the most important of which is to be "the best successor to the best predecessor."

It is well-known that the predecessor was Mr Hedi Mabrouk himself, the only Tunisian ambassador to head one embassy for 13 consecutive years, which brings him close to the world record. This might be why the choice fell to Mr Mustapha Zaanouni, who for the last 5 years has been the head of the United Nations development program, itself an important position in the area of the state's relations to the individual and also to his homeland.

Furthermore, Mr Zaanouni had previously occupied important posts in the heart of the government in Tunis. He joined the first government formed by Mr Hedi Nouira in November 1970 as secretary of state for agriculture along with Mr Hamadi Guedira (currently minister of food production) while the ministry was run by the late Abdallah Farhat. In October, he transferred with the same rank to the ministry of planning, which was run by Mr Mansour Moalla, and remained in that post until January 1975, when he became until April 1980 minister of planning to replace Dr Chedli Ayari, who had come to that ministry in September 1974 to replace Mr Mansour Moalla.

Old Hands

At the same time, reassessments have included other bright faces in the diplomatic corps, including Mr Noureddine Mejdoub, who was transferred to Rome, to which he came from Prague. Before that he had worked in a number of capitals. Ambassador Mejdoub has a number of issues before him that he must attend to skillfully and quickly with our Italian friends, among which are the visa problem and the treatment of Tunisian tourists and workers in Italy. Not

to mention following up on the problem of fishing by the Italians in our regional waters, in addition to issues of cooperation that are ongoing between the two countries.

Mr Abdelhamid Ben Cheikh stayed on in Africa. He had transferred from Khartoum to Dakar, where he was to strengthen support of existing relations between the two countries and especially in the area of commercial exchange. As is well-known, Senegal has recently acquired what could be called "Tunisian technology" (in certain fields), and we have to believe in strengthening this work by applying Tunisian style and presence.

There is no doubt that our diplomatic corps will be able to achieve better results through the necessary touches infused in our blood by Mr Hedi Mabrouk, whose effectiveness and careful knowledge in foreign affairs have been attested to by all, and most especially President Habib Bourguiba, who appointed him to this difficult task.

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IRAQ

ENERGY, INDUSTRY PROJECTS DEVELOPED DURING WAR

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 17 Sep 86 p 5

[Article by Sadiq Faraj: "Ministry of Industry and Minerals Implements Numerous Industrial Projects in War Years; More than 5,000 Villages Provided Electricity; Engineering and Metal Industries"]

[Text] In the years of our just war against the Iranian enemy, the Ministry of Industry and Minerals has implemented numerous industrial projects which have had a significant impact on building the advanced industrial base and on bolstering and reinforcing the victories scored by our valiant armed forces.

In the area of electric power generation, transmission, and distribution, the ministry has implemented more than 80 projects to build main and subsidiary electric power plants and to provide electricity to more than 5,000 villages. Moreover, the ministry has enlarged, maintained, and improved numerous subsidiary plants in all of the country's governorates. Last year, the maximum load capacities of the electric power plants increased by 996 percent and 944 percent and the number of subsidiary power plants increased by 850 percent over preceding years.

At the same time, the Public Engineering Industries Establishment has implemented numerous major projects, especially in manufacturing electricity transformers, iron molds, instruments, and structures in the area of central services for the production of hot and cold molds, reserve equipment of all kinds, and in building warehouses, factories, apartment buildings, and bridges and producing materials needed in construction work, such as doors and windows. This is in addition to other projects for the production of spark plugs, irons, Rim buses and projects for the maintenance and expansion of a number of new lines producing wet and dry-battery cells, incandescent and (amorescent) lights, metal and aluminum structures, fans, agricultural equipment, and tractors and other products.

In the chemical and metal industries, the ministry has achieved major qualitative jumps in building and completing a number of important industrial projects, such as projects for the production of paper, cardboard, plywood, and the recycling of sulfur wastes to produce sulfur and sulfuric acid, with the production growth rate amounting in 1984 to 364 percent over preceding

years. Meanwhile, the country implemented its biggest general geological survey project which has become a main guide for detailed mineral-prospecting activities and a basic reference for implementation of the development projects relying on land use, such as irrigation, agriculture, demographic distribution, roads, and bridges. Moreover, important projects in sulfur, phosphate, and other industries have also been implemented.

As for selecting the latest technological methods for blueprinting and implementing projects, the Public Industrial Blueprints and Construction Establishment has implemented in recent years numerous industrial projects, beginning with the phase of technical and economic feasibility studies, the phase of preparing the specifications and blueprints while examining the maps, and ending with the phase of actual implementation and of supervision and followup on the work of contractors implementing the project. In addition, work was inspected in accordance with the contracts and technical specifications agreed upon. The establishment has completed 190 projects for the production of fertilizers, petrochemicals, iron and steel, engineering products, and other products. Moreover, the establishment has prepared more than 390 technical and economic feasibility studies for a number of important projects.

In the area of development and invention, the ministry's various agencies have registered numerous invention patents connected with the various industrial and development projects. As a result, expenditures and labor have been reduced, hard currency has been saved, raw and semi-processed materials have been used in a rationalized manner and the quality of some products has been improved, thus putting these products in a better competitive position versus similar imported products.

In this regard, numerous industrial projects have been built and completed. The most important have been the projects to extract sulfur from sulfur wastes, to use reeds in producing paper, cement bags, and plywood, to protect sponge iron against oxidation and to treat the consequences of corrosion and to recycle aluminum waste and scrap to produce blocks used in industry.

The technicians have been able to develop an agricultural drill and equipment to service date palms, to produce joint and hydraulic cranes and install them on the 'Antar agricultural tractors, and to make some improvements on electrical instruments and equipment, such as water pumps and table, ceiling, and vertical fans.

With the accelerating pace of the work, the ministry has displayed its technical capabilities by manufacturing back-up equipment, especially during the years of our just war against the Iranian enemy, to break the monopoly of machinery and equipment manufacturers and suppliers. More than 250 different spare parts have been produced for the Public Engineering Industries Establishment. Various types of molds, work tools, instruments, and spare parts have also been produced for the ministry's other installations and establishments.

The ministry has also devoted special attention to the issue of industrial research and development which are a mainstay for developing and enhancing industry and to creating intrinsic capabilities to deal with and develop

technology. In accordance with this tendency, the first plan to move in this direction was formulated in 1982 to enhance the technical knowledge and to develop it in an effective manner so as to deal with the bottlenecks, to solve the technical problems, to correct the flaws in quality and to develop the products.

One of the indications of this progress is the increase in the number of industrial research and development departments from 16 departments to 24 departments in 1984, covering all the production installations and the Public Electricity Establishment, and the progress achieved by the Specialized Engineering Industries Institute which offers its services to both the private and the public sectors.

As for the training and development plans, the ministry has organized numerous courses in which thousands of the workers of its agencies took part and attended practical and theoretical lectures on the maintenance of modern electronic machinery and equipment, on scientific research methodology, on the maintenance of microfilm equipment, on technological blueprinting, on production planning and control, on the rationalization of energy consumption, and on training technical cadres in the various fields.

As a result, the number of courses increased in 1985 by 174 percent over previous years and the number of participants rose by 130 percent.

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IRAQ

CONSTRUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN BASRA DESCRIBED

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 17 Sep 86 p 5

[Article: "During the Years of Our Just Defensive War: Implementation of Construction, Educational and Health Projects in Basra"]

[Text] The lofty building process in Basra Governorate continues in light of the instructions of the party and revolutionary leadership, headed by Leader President Saddam Husayn, to establish comprehensive development in all areas despite the years of the war imposed on our struggling country by the tyrannical clique in Iran.

The projects have been distributed over the economic, educational, health, and social areas to confirm the party and revolutionary leadership's interest in meeting the needs of the citizens of brave Basra and in honoring them for their effective and commendable contributions in the epic of defending the dear soil of the homeland. Perhaps the most prominent honor is embodied in the leader president's order that 1.4 billion dinars be allocated for the development of the city of Basra.

During the war years, the local government has implemented 741 projects at a cost of 28,262,000 dinars, including 172 elementary schools, 31 intermediate and secondary schools, 10 kindergartens, 250 housing units for employees and workers, 4 boarding sections, a children's cinema, 6 health centers and popular clinics, warehouses, a production factory, 5 non-automated factories, 4 party offices, and other service buildings.

The brave Basra Governorate has witnessed the opening of the 81-kilometer long Rumaylah-Safwan expressway at a cost of 150 million dinars. The governorate's Bridges Directorate has built 5 bridges, out of a total of 10 bridges, for pedestrian traffic at a cost of 651,000 dinars.

The Public Post, Telegraph, and Telephone Directorate has initiated its plan to increase the number of telephone lines from 25,000 to 100,000 lines by building new telephone exchanges and expanding existing ones. A total of 4,000 lines have been secured for al-Zubayr District, thus increasing the capacity of its network to 10,000 lines.

Basra Municipality has paved and surface dozens of kilometers of main and subsidiary roads in the governorate's capital and districts. The most significant of these accomplishments are embodied in paving the streets of Umm Qasr, Safwan, and al-Dayr subdistricts; in Umm al-Shuwaykh village and in al-Qarnah; and in Shatt al-'Arab and Abu al-Khasib subdistricts. This is in addition to the construction of a tourist hotel in al-Zubayr at a cost of 7 million dinars. The cost of the roads completed or under construction within the framework of the governorate's plan has amounted to 34,012,368 dinars. These roads cover al-Husayn, al-Khalij al-'Arabi, al-Mirba', al-Ba'th, al-Ma'qil, al-Tuwaysah, al-Bajjari, Umm al-Dajaj, al-Hakimiyah and al-Dubbat quarters. Meanwhile, the work goes on to build 64 traffic intersections at a cost of 610,000 dinars.

The governorate has also witnessed completion of the first and second phase of the citizens housing project which is being implemented by the Pre-fabricated Construction and which includes 1,904 apartments with their utilities. The work also goes on to build 120 apartments out of a total of 1,109 apartments in the third phase. The Basra Buildings Directorate also has built the health professions building, the head office of the Basra Appeals Court, the social welfare hospital, 10 apartment buildings, and a summer swimming pool at a cost of 21,821,000 dinars.

The first and second phases of the Basra sewerage project have been inaugurated at a cost of 37.1 million dinars and work has begun on the third phase which will cost 62 million dinars. The directorate has also built 52 water plants with a capacity of 52 million gallons daily and other similar projects in the capital and districts of the governorate to meet the citizens need for clean water.

The governorate's municipalities have distributed 8,553 plots of land to deserving citizens in Basra's districts and subdistricts. Basra Municipality has also distributed dozens of plots to members of associations so as to absorb the population growth in the city of one million fighters.

During the war years, the steadfast Basra Governorate has built numerous service, social, and educational buildings, perhaps the most significant of which are the buildings of the new colleges of Basra University in Karmat 'Ali and the buildings for the Federation of Basra Labor Unions which include the federation headquarters, the cultural and social center, the workers hotel, the library, and the workers sports club.

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IRAQ

WAYS TO IMPROVE EXPORTS DISCUSSED

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 16 Sep 86 p 8

[Article: "Approaches on Path to Enhance Our Exports"]

[Text] The economic sectors' agencies are displaying an ever-increasing interest in enhancing Iraq's non-oil commodity exports. The Baghdad Chamber of Commerce and Industry plays a distinguished role in this regard, devoting special attention to tackling the export problems and obstacles by resorting to direct and on-the-spot meetings with the people concerned with this activity so that it may familiarize itself with their observations and proposals on the present and future export plans and may ensure that conventional Iraqi exports enter the foreign markets and succeed in facing the competition from similar goods and products.

The chamber is also distinguished for its practical initiative in tackling tangible problems and issues in the field of export activity in light of the practical and available possibilities of exporting this or that Iraqi commodity which is free of any added foreign production value. This includes, for example, the export of seedlings.

The Baghdad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been able to underline certain facts concerning the production and export of Iraqi seedlings and the problems facing their exportation and has recommended some proposals and approaches to develop the production and exportation of such seedlings. The practical studies and discussions the chamber has held with seedling exporters have concluded the following:

1. Seedling production is one of the agricultural activities that must receive attention and support because seedlings are a purely local product which has an export value throughout the year.
2. The Arab Gulf countries are major markets for Iraqi seedlings and offer the best chances for the success and growth of seedling cultivation. Moreover, these markets offer a special advantage by virtue of their geographic proximity which makes it possible to ship the product rapidly by trucks.

3. The export of seedlings does not affect the volume of seedlings available for local use. Moreover, the export of seedlings to the Arab Gulf countries makes it possible to achieve major economic results for the national economy, in addition to making it possible to boost other contingent products.

However, there are problems facing the exportation of seedlings and the Baghdad Chamber of Commerce and Industry sums up these problems as follows:

1. The problem of transport fee payment: The export processes and the exposure of seedlings to damage as a result of transportation and of delay at the border customs centers have caused the export operations to be conducted on the basis of (C.I.F) because the importer refuses to import on the basis of (F.O.B). Therefore, the shipping cost is included as part of a deal's export value. This makes the Central Bank of Iraq demand 5 percent of the value of the deal as a shipping fee whereas the exporter does not include the shipping fee as part of the price because the fees are paid by the importer to the shipper directly.

Because of the difficulty of using Iraqi shippers, it is impossible for the exporter to remit the shipping fee into the country and this makes him accountable to the Central Bank of Iraq.

2. The problem of setting the export price for seedlings: Insofar as this problem is concerned, the Baghdad Chamber of Commerce and Industry notes that the seedling export prices are often set at high levels that do not take into consideration the prices prevailing in foreign markets, thus exposing the Iraqi exporter to strong competition from exporters from other countries, such as India, Pakistan, Lebanon, Egypt, and Singapore. This forces the exporter to sell at prices below those set for seedlings when the export permits and lists are issued. These permits and lists require the exporter to remit to Iraq the value of the deals he makes in foreign currency and at the prices set in the permits and lists. This puts the exporter in a dilemma, especially since the seedling export deals are concluded on the basis of bank surety issued to the exporter and sold at the prices prevalent in foreign markets—prices that are not necessarily identical to the set export prices or even to the export prices agreed upon.

The chamber notes that the Farming Directorate sets the seedling prices not so much in light of the supply and demand indicators and conditions in the foreign markets as in light of the local price indicators. Moreover, two export prices are set: One price for seedlings planted in pots and another price for seedlings preserved in plastic bags. The difference between the two prices is one half dinar. This makes the prices for seedlings in pots very high and creates an obstacle in the face of exporting these kinds of seedlings. Meanwhile, seedlings preserved in plastic bags are susceptible to damage. Therefore, the exportation of seedlings in pots at realistic prices has numerous advantages, including protection of the seedling during transportation. These advantages make this system the favorite among importers.

The exposure of exported seedlings to damage because of the delays of customs procedures, of the shipping method, or of climatic conditions exposes the exporter to loss as a result of loss of part of the value of the seedlings.

This is why the Baghdad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has proposed reconsidering the set prices, focusing on the export of seedlings planted in clay pots, having the Public Export Establishment coordinate with the Central Bank of Iraq to set a certain damage rate ranging from 20-25 percent of the value of the exported shipment, having the seedling exports included in the principle of confirmation by the Iraqi delegations of the actual sale prices of a shipment--a principle applied to fruit and vegetable exports. The chamber has also proposed that the financial subsidy given to fruits and vegetables, amounting to 25 percent of the value of the exports actually made and 35 percent of the sums remitted to the country but not exceeding the sums set in the export permit, be also given to seedling exports. It has further proposed that the Central Bank agree to deduct the shipping fees from a transaction's value according to rates determined by the bank and that it agree that the importer pay the fees to the shipper.

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ISRAEL

GROWING NUMBER OF ARAB RESIDENTS IN HAIFA

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Jul 86 p 9

[Article by Nurit Kahan'a: "Haifa: The Arab Force"]

[Text] Haifa's official spokesmen are not eager to comment on the subject of housing trends among Haifa Arabs, however, the issue is high on their list of priorities these days. Haifa has always been known as a city in which relations between Jews and Arabs are conducted on smooth waters in a good atmosphere. But, a demographic fact—the growth in numbers of Arab residents, who tady, according to official estimates, number close to 20,000, almost twice as many as compared with the period following the war of independence—has set the social reality in a different context and threatens to disrupt the existing balance.

According to a new study by Dr Yosi Ben Artzi of Haifa University, "Haifa Arabs 1972-1985, Demographic and Geographic Change," a sharp increase has occurred in the number of Arabs in Haifa. During the years that were examined in the study, 5,026 people were added to the city, a growth of 40.5 percent. The Jewish sector, during the same period, grew at a rate of only 0.5 percent. The minute growth among Jews can be explained by the low natural birth rate, and by the process of suburbanization and emigration to areas outside the city," writes Ben Artzi. "The tremendous growth within the Arab community is explained by both a higher natural birth rate and higher than expected or known immigration rates." A direct result of this is the increased percentage of Arabs in Haifa, to approximately 7.7 percent of the population versus 5.6 percent in 1972.

"We are in the phase of gathering material for a city council discussion on the subject of the housing problem within Haifa's Arab community," says municipal secretary Yosef Gluzman. It became known to the city's leaders that the firm of 'Amidor was today allocating 51 percent of its housing resources to Arabs in the city.

According to municipal records, the non-Jewish population grew at a rate of 3 percent a year, and represents 8.1 percent of the total population today versus 5.1 percent in 1951. Most of the growth occurred during the last 9 years. The experts from whom the municipality has sought advice, say that the process of Arab population influx into the city should be seen in a

positive light as a process that is spontaneous and unintentional, and that housing models should be encouraged, not scattered but in specific areas.

A Lack of Housing Solutions

One opinion is that Haifa should encourage this process as a solution to the plan for increasing the Jewish population in the Galilee via Arab immigration to the big city. Gluxman does not agree: "The decrease of Arab villages in the Galilee cannot be seen as serious." According to Gluzman, the Arab problem in Haifa is demographic, not political. Gluzman says that the problem does not exist within established strata of the Jewish and Arab population in Haifa. However, 41 percent of the non-Jewish population is at a low socio-economic level. At issue are 4,000 non-Jewish households to which 150 households a year are added.

The municipality is convinced that in another 10 years the non-Jewish population of Haifa will not exceed 22,000 residents, i.e., 9 percent. From the municipality's viewpoint, the problem focuses on the changing make-up of the population, from Jewish to Arab, in certain neighborhoods, and on the allocation of services. In due course, the residents of these neighborhoods will demand their due. The very fact that the municipality has turned to experts and to a scientific examination of the subject can be seen as a desire to evaluate a solution, and to avoid treating the Arab population through political channels, claims Gluzman. In a discussion that will apparently take place in September, at the city council, the agenda includes a discussion of four recommendations that have already been raised in the past and upon which the discussion had been tabled.

"It is important that extremism be avoided. Haifa has a tradition of tolerance which any thoughtless act could destroy," says Gluzman. When conclusions are reached, a working paper on the subject will be submitted.

The essence of the question before the Haifa municipality today is whether to react to the changes that have occurred in the Arab population. If it decides to react, it will be forced to find solutions to housing, for which there is a serious shortage among the Arab population, particularly among lower socio-economic groups.

Integrated Neighborhoods

Before the war of independence, Haifa was a bi-national city. On the eve of the establishment of the state, there were 62,000 Arab residents in Haifa. Most left when the war broke out and only 3,566 Arab residents remained, mainly Christian Arabs.

They were concentrated by the authorities in Wadi Nisnas, on the Carmel border. Until the war, the Arab area went from the Halisa area in the lower part of town and the outskirts of Hadar-HaCarmel to Herzliya and Nevi'im Streets. The mass exodus of Haifa's Arabs was followed by a rapid influx of new immigrants via what was termed the absentee property act. The Jewish

Haifa of the era, especially that of Hadar HaCarmel, was principally concentrated on Peveznor, Joseph, Hermon, and Jerusalem Streets. The obvious border was Nevi'im Street and Emeq HaZeytim Street.

The Arab minority in Haifa did not get caught up in national conflicts and found its place in the commercial and economic sectors of the city, alongside the Jewish population. "I've lived in the same neighborhood, with Arabs and Jews mixed, on Tzionut Street, for 54 years," says John Majdeleni, president of the Christian Orthodox community in Haifa. "On UN Avenue (the former name of Zion Avenue) and on Nerzliya Street, Jews and Arabs lived like one family, like brothers." The experiment proved, he says, that via joint housing, people of both nationalities could learn about their respective cultures, instead of clinging to vague preconceptions, each about the other.

Majdeleni remembers nostalgically the steps taken by the late major Shabbatai Levi, may he rest in peace, who permitted the baking of bread for the Arab population on 2 April 1948, after the city was liberated by the Hagana, despite the fact that the bakeries were closed for the Passover holiday, and how Levi asked him to convince the Arabs in Haifa to stay. "There is no solution other than living together. Only the extremists on both sides make trouble for us," he says.

"The Haifa Arabs' housing problems, mainly among young couples, is used as a subject for making promises during every election," says the secretary of the Muslim community in Haifa, 'Arfan Abu Hamad. "Goral promises housing, tours Wadi Nisenas, and sees an apartment where 12 people live in one room and does nothing."

According to Abu Hamad, the Arab population no longer believes that there will be a solution to the problem. In 38 years, the state has built only one building for Arabs to live in, on Shizef Street, a building with 16 apartments. The Moslem community agreed to use the cemetery area of the city, which was owned by the family of the late major Hasan Shukri, to build a development. But following a conflict between the municipality and Shukri's son, the plan never came to pass. According to Abu Hamad, 500 Arab families in Haifa today suffer from lack of housing.

Leaving the Ghetto

The trend of outbreaks among the Arab population in Haifa is caused, according to experts, not only by Judeo-Arab relations or by a lack of solutions to the Arab housing problem, but by planning problems the roots of which are found back in the days of settlement, problems which the city's leaders starting with Levi, through Hushi and up to Goral, have not managed to resolve. At issue is a trend on the part of Jews to abandon older neighborhoods. While in Tel Aviv or other cities there is a parallel phenomenon whereby young Jewish families are returning to old neighborhoods, in Haifa and Hadar-HaCarmel they are only leaving. The geographic dispersion of neighborhoods resulted in the former center of Jewish residents in the city aging quickly, being swallowed up, and the value of property dropped. This process prepared the

way for the Arab population to enter. Thus, according to Ben Artzi's research, Hess and Hilel Streets today are beginning to be populated by Arabs.

Via conversations and impressions, it is difficult to attribute any racial undertones to the city leaders' anxiety over the trend of change within the Arab population. Goral is known as someone who vehemently prevented the appearance of Rabbi Kahan'a in Haifa. Notwithstanding, the entry of Arabs to areas and neighborhoods where Jews are still living, usually old-timers and long time veterans of the city, is inherently fraught with potential tension. Already, there are those who refer to the local color on Hadar streets on Saturday--the Eastern melodies ringing through Hilel Street, the outdoor living.

Against a background of growth in numbers, the issue of Arab involvement in government networks has been raised. Actually, since the days of Abu Hushi, the Arabs of Haifa have not had realistic representation on the city council on the MAPAI and MAPAM lists. Instead of political participation, they took pride in employing the Arabs as clerks in the municipality--a remnant of the Mandate period. Usually, these were Christian Arabs who were closely related to the Mandate government and continued to serve in the municipality as mid-level functionaries.

When the number of members on the council was increased to 27, a single Arab representative from Rakah was seated. Due to the Arabs' lack of presence in the Labor Party, it is only natural that the only representative of the city's Arabs belong to a party that criticizes the establishment. The Rakah representative, Zaki Harkabi, is not considered by the head of the Muslim community to be a true representative of the interests of Haifa's Arabs, but is rather seen as someone who accepts the status quo. Signs of cooperation between Jews and Arabs over the years have been noted in city life. In the Haifa theater, two Arab actors of some stature came to the fore, Yusif Abu Wardah and Makram Khuri. Soccer player Zaki Armali rose to greatness on the Maccabee Haifa team. Around him and around the team grew a sense of collective identification among Jews and Arabs. The influence of the Kakh movement is not great, but given the process now at work--whereby Haifa's Arabs are gradually abandoning the Arab ghetto of united and homogeneous neighborhoods and entering mixed neighborhoods--there is an inherent danger of tension. The ground has been prepared for this by the feelings of a gap and distress. Evidence of this has already been heard in Harkabi's speech during the discussion on budget approval a few months ago. He demanded that the allocation of resources to Haifa's Arabs be increased.

As the interaction between Jews and Arabs in Haifa increases, so will the legitimate demand to take part in the government, and especially for a more just division of the municipal pie to meet the needs of the Arab population.

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ISRAEL

COMPROMISE ON MINIMUM WAGE SCALE SOUGHT

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jul 86 pp 1, 2

[Article by Yehudit Winkler and Tzvi Zaharia: "An Attempt to Find a Compromise on the Minimum Wage Issue"]

[Text] The Secretary General of the Histadrut and the chairman of the Professional Union Branch will meet today or tomorrow with Minister of Finance Moshe Nisim, in an attempt to arrive at an agreement on wages in the public and business sectors, by adopting a compromise on the issue of the minimum wage and a conservative increase in wages via graduated payments.

Given the bitter opposition of private employers to the idea of setting the minimum wage as a fixed percentage of the average wage in the marketplace, Histadrut leaders are considering accepting a suggestion to set a fixed amount as the minimum wage and to adjust it periodically--these periods are to be agreed upon by both sides.

Israel Kaiser announced yesterday at the weekly meeting of the central committee that if, by the end of the month, an agreement was not reached on the minimum wage issue, he would unilaterally fix the minimum wage for union enterprises at 450 shekels, which is 45 percent of the average wage in the marketplace. According to Kaiser, the employment sector can support a wage increase from approximately 330 shekels to 450, with a gradual increase to 500 shekels a month, which represents approximately 50 percent of the average wage in the marketplace. Yesterday, Dov Lautman, president of the coordinating agency for the economic organizations, sent a warning to the prime minister saying that if the starting wage is linked to the average wage in the marketplace, at the rate demanded by the Histadrut, there will be no preventing a price increase of 15 percent.

Alternative Suggestion Under Consideration

It has been reported that the Histadrut and employers are giving positive consideration to an alternative suggestion, the essence of which is to guarantee a starting wage in the private sector and to adjust it through negotiations at intervals to be determined by the parties involved. The private sector employers object to establishing a starting wage, but are willing to discuss the introduction of an overall minimum without other wage components. The private employers are demanding that the government and the

Histadrut withdraw their intention to legalize a minimum wage. In exchange, it appears that they would be willing to give moderate salary supplements that would be spread out over the course of the current year.

The chairman of the professional union branch of the Histadrut said yesterday that progress had been made in the negotiations on the wage in the public sector, establishing new ranking levels and opening avenues for advancement in salary scales. The Histadrut repeated its intention to embark on a professional struggle if by the end of the month agreements were not signed, at least on the wage issue.

Even the Workers Association Employs Non-Union Workers

'Aliza Tamir, a member of the central committee, revealed yesterday that even within the Workers Association a phenomenon exists whereby non-union workers were employed being recruited from private employment agencies and contractors.

The Government Will Submit a Recommendation to the Knesset

The government will submit to the Knesset a recommendation for establishing a minimum wage law. The prime minister, Shimon Peres, will request that the Knesset chairman delay the discussion on the private legal recommendations presented on the issue until after the Knesset's summer recess.

Yesterday, the government received a recommendation from the minister of finance for the establishment of a minimum wage. Minister Nisim suggested that the minimum wage be set through negotiations between employers and the Histadrut. The minimum wage would be adjusted once a year, based on recommendations submitted by a special committee. He also suggested that the establishment of a minimum wage should not be linked with increases in mid-level wage rates. The minister of finance's recommendations did not say how high the minimum wage should be in comparison with the average wage.

Minister of Labor Moshe Katzav suggested that the minimum wage be at the rate of 45-50 percent of the average wage in the marketplace.

The deputy prime minister and the minister of construction and housing, David Levi, said: "I take issue with those ministers who do not feel compelled to give their opinion on this serious social issue and think that if they ignore the problem, from their point of view it will not exist. "The absence of a minimum wage law and the existence of many workers on real poverty level salaries is a pity and a social tragedy. "The government continues to avoid confronting the problem, allowing the situation to perpetuate."

Minister Levi suggested that a law be presented to the Knesset establishing the minimum wage at 50 percent of the average wage in the marketplace.

Yonatan Sherman, a HA'ARETZ correspondent, reported that industrialists are warning that legalizing a minimum wage in the marketplace would bring about renewed inflationary outbreaks.

This evaluation, by the economic division of the industrial union, is based on the assumption that the law would cause a 54 percent increase in the minimum income of the working sector and that as a result, there would be a trend to increase wages in all sectors, following attempts by constituents to preserve wage differentials.

The industrialists point out that even an adjustment of only one-third of the minimum income in the working sector would likely bring about an increase in the price index of approximately 15 percent and pressure to devalue the shekel against the dollar at the same rate.

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ISRAEL

WATER CONTAMINATION LEVELS RISING, GOVERNMENT BLAMED

Water Contamination Reaching Dangerous Proportions

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 28 Jul 86 p 18

[Article by Gila Razin: "You're Drinking Poison"]

[Text] The drinking water in more than 200 settlements in Israel is considered contaminated. This conclusion was reached based on the results of water samples that were examined in Ministry of Health laboratories over the course of 1985. In 1986, no improvement has occurred. Tests conducted in May 1986, for example, revealed that the settlement at the top of this "black list" is Ketzarim, where 83 percent of the water samples were contaminated. Next on the list is Mejar near Tiberias, with 81 percent. And following those two leaders: the kibbutzim in the Jordan Valley (60 percent), Rosh-Pina (55 percent), settlements in the Golan Heights regional council (42 percent), kibbutzim in the Upper Galilee regional council (30 percent), the Hermon water system (38 percent), and Tiberias (28 percent).

The situation underground in Israel is known to the parties dealing with the drinking water issue - Mekorot, Tahal (Israel Water-Planning Authority), the Water Authority itself, and the Ministry of the Interior. The problem is that other than shouting and the sounding of alarms, nothing has been done. The Ministry of Health is responsible for the quality of the drinking water we use, and Knesset Member Shoshana Arbeli-Almozelino, assistant minister of health, decided to look into the issue at its roots.

The reasons for the contamination are: sewage water, human excrement, fertilizers from the agricultural sector, and industrial waste. The earth is brimming with all of these, and from the earth these elements permeate or are washed into the drinking water. The very fact that the water intended for drinking is contaminated requires purification to protect the public from disease. Most of the drinking water in Israel undergoes purification before it reaches the spigots in every home. In effect, there is no health problem except for sub-standard upkeep and the quality of the tanks; accidents do occur.

One serious accident occurred 1 year ago in Qiryot and Shefar'am, and caused life-threatening diseases among 7,000 people, within a population of 90,000

whose water supply comes from the same system. A child of 7, whose family lives in western Qiryat Hayim, died during the time of the plague.

At the same time, the water was being regularly checked once every week. The frequency of checks is determined by the size of the population receiving water from a particular source. Two weeks before the epidemic broke out, the water tests showed no irregularities. Two months prior to that, a public works tractor had damaged a sewage pipe in Shefar'am, located approximately 155 meters from the Ofeq-2 well that supplies drinking water to Qiryot and Shefar'am.

Had the sewage water drained slowly to a depth of 80 meters where the drinking water is situated, via chalky layers of rock, it would have undergone a straining process and would not have caused contamination of the drinking water there. However, geologists from the Tekhnion who examined the structure of the earth discovered that at a depth of 20 meters, there was a crevice which the sewage water broke through and fell from there directly into the drinking water well.

To prevent a repetition of similar occurrences, it was decided that tests should be conducted more frequently. The source of drinking water to this area is now being checked three times a day. To be even safer, purification materials are being added to the water, although until the outbreak of the epidemic, it was not customary to purify water pumped from a source deep underground.

Thus, all the problems have been solved, except that one cannot rely on the proper maintenance of the purification containers. In the settlement of Qeshet, which is in the Kineret district, Mekorot operates a purification institute. There, in 38 percent of the drinking water samples tested, contaminants were found. The conclusion of the investigation of this occurrence was extremely simple--Mekorot did not change the containers that were emptied of purification materials.

In the Acre district, the incident is compounding itself. Approximately half of the 47 samples that were taken from the drinking water supplied to the investigators were contaminated. An examination revealed that sometimes, the operators neglected to wash the purification containers with chlorine when they were emptied.

Even when procedures are followed, it is not sufficient. In the Bney Dror settlement in the Sharon district, 34 percent of the drinking water samples were contaminated. It turned out that the automatic purification system in the settlement's water towers was fine. The source of the problem in this case was rotting pipes. Pieces of rust were polluting the purified water and the chlorine could not purify it.

It is not sufficient to have purifiers in the drinking water. There must be the required quantity and no more. In Haifa, for example, an excessively large concentration was introduced into the drinking water in error. Carcinogenic materials, which are created when the water (which contains

organic matter) is purified with chlorine, can endanger the public health.

In Ramat Magshimim, in the Kineret district, 27 percent of the samples were contaminated. A purification plant exists there, but the residents object to its use.

Even if the chlorine container is full and working and the purification material is used in the proper quantities and the pipes are clean, there are still circumstances under which the chlorine may not work properly. This, for example, was the case in the Mitzpe Shalom settlement in the southern district. There the earth contains fertilizers for agricultural purposes. In the winter, with the floods, these substances are washed into areas from which the drinking water is drawn.

In addition to all the environmental factors, there is also a human factor. In the village of Yedidea, in the Sharon district, one quarter of the 44 samples taken from drinking water were contaminated. The Health Agency took the local council to court due to repeated cases of pollutants in the drinking water. It turned out that the person responsible for the pollution was the "water man." This was the first settlement in Israel that was brought to court and fined (in January 1986). Following the outcome of the trial, the worker was found guilty of negligence and was replaced.

Settlements Where More Than 25 Percent of the Samples Were Contaminated in 1985

<u>Settlement</u>	<u>Total No. of Samples</u>	<u>Percentage Contamination</u>
NORTHERN DISTRICT		
Rosh Pina	40	55
'Ajar	21	50
'Ayn Kania	33	55
Kibbutz Parud	21	33
Bar'am	21	33
Kerem Ben Zimra	21	29
Shanir	18	33
Dafna	18	56
Ha Gosherim	27	56
Ma'ayan Barukh	18	33
She'ar Yeshuv	18	83
Beyt Hilel	18	33
TZEFAT DISTRICT		
Margalyot	23	30
Kfar Yuval	18	33

<u>SETTLEMENT</u>	<u>Total No. of Samples</u>	<u>Percentage Contamination</u>
KINERET DISTRICT		
Yavni'el	35	26
Kineret	16	31
Mitzpe	13	29
Menahemya	24	54
Sharona	12	25
Karai Deshe	23	70
Ginnosar	24	54
Qeshet	24	38
Ramat Magshimin	22	27
Gamala	20	40
JEZREEL DISTRICT		
Mitzpe 'Adi	8	25
Tel Yosef	16	69
Haftziva	21	38
Tamara	11	27
ACRE DISTRICT		
Bakayin	47	49
Mande	82	25
Ben 'Ami	24	87
Khalili	10	30
HADERA DISTRICT		
Jat	26	31
'Ayn Iron	18	33
SHARON DISTRICT		
Bney Dror	32	34
Kfar Hess	44	25
Nordia	44	25
Pardesiya	8	25
Kfar Yedidea	44	25
Herev Liat	46	26
PETAH TIQVA DISTRICT		
Kfar Ma'ash	27	25
Yitzhar	12	25

<u>SETTLEMENT</u>	<u>Total No. of Samples</u>	<u>Percentage Contamination</u>
REHOVOT DISTRICT		
Giv'at Washington	21	57
Kevutzat Yavne	34	32
Kerem Yavne	16	31
Nir Galim	38	29
ASHQELON DISTRICT		
Kfar Silver	39	38
Mosad Nitzanim	35	25
SOUTHERN DISTRICT		
Almog	4	25
Mitzpe Shalom	4	50

Settlements in which the Ministry of Health conducted water sampling:
Kibbutzim in the Jordan Valley and Golan Heights settlements lead the "Black List".

Health Ministry, Water Authority Blamed

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 29 Jul 86 p 19

[Article by David Golan: "You're Drinking Poison"]

[Text] Yesterday, HADASHOT published the results of the nationwide drinking water tests, showing that in more than 200 settlements, the water is contaminated. The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for monitoring these tests. "Most of the local networks do not ensure that the water samples are taken as required. They do not fulfill the responsibility imposed on them. Most take only half the samples required," says Dr Uri Merinov, head of the Ministry of the Interior's Environmental Protection Branch.

Up to now, no legal charges have been made against a local network that does not conduct sampling as required. Merinov says that proper supervision of the local networks is lacking..."If there was a supervisory network, it has fallen apart."

Two floors below the Environmental Protection Branch sits the man responsible for the local networks within the Ministry of the Interior. It is he who can force the networks to conduct water sampling. "When I blew the whistle once on one of the local networks, I received a letter from the legal advisor in the Health Ministry, explicitly prohibiting me from dealing with the water quality issue. He claimed that the issue was solely under the jurisdiction of his ministry," says Merinov.

In the local government branch, approximately once every 6 months, they receive a list of settlements that have not conducted water sampling as required. Usually, these are small settlements--moshavim or regional councils. "The larger towns conduct sampling as required. There has never been a complaint about a large town," says Arie Hecht, head of the branch.

The local government branch sends a letter to the local networks that appear on the Ministry of Health's list and calls them to order. Here ends his responsibility, until the next list arrives.

The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for the national sewage project. Thousands of kilometers of sewage pipes travel below ground, and no one knows where. The Ministry of the Interior never prepared a map indicating where the sewage pipes run. The results: In many settlements, there is no permanent arrangement for transferring waste water and there is insufficient separation between water pipes and sewage pipes. The danger: Penetration of sewage into drinking water following damage to pipes.

Two thirds of the waste water in Israel is not transferred by pipe at all, but rather in ravines. In Acre, Nahariya, Zikhron-Ya'akov, and a large portion of Tel Aviv, the waste water flows along the coast and is dumped into the sea. In Lod, Ramala and Tzerifin, the waste water flows in ravines to the Elon River. Waste water that travels in ravines is likely to seep and endanger the drinking water that flows through pipes below it.

In Jerusalem, part of the waste water runs through ravines. Another portion goes to Nahal Soreia. Here it drains into the deep river water which is used for drinking water.

In many Arab villages in the triangle, as well as in agricultural settlements and old moshavim, there is no sewage system. The waste drains into drainage basins near the homes. In some cases the waste flows freely through the streets of the settlement. In Umm al-Fahm, for example, the sewage water runs from the higher elevations to the lower elevations, near the homes. In many settlements, cesspools were built several decades ago, into which the sewage water drains. This sewage water is destined to be absorbed into the earth where it will decay. The result: The sewage water long ago overflowed its banks. The danger of pollution is great.

Most of the water we drink comes from the firm, Mekorot. Other local networks have wells with their own water and they are responsible for checking the water quality in these wells. Once a week, a water engineer in each local network is supposed to take water samples to a Ministry of Health laboratory. The results are received within a few hours. The larger the local network, the most frequently samples should be checked.

According to the Ministry of Health's instructions, if the results of the tests are negative, the local network must repeat the test. If the Ministry of Health does not press for it, the networks do not conduct new tests. Up until now, no measures have been taken against a local network that has not conducted water testing.

Following the pollution of the water in Qiryot, several committees were established. The committee formed by the deputy minister of agriculture in August 1985 submitted its conclusions and several pages of recommendations. Almost none of these have been implemented to date. Uri Merinov of the Ministry of the Interior has thrown the ball back to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Water Authority who, according to Merinov, are not doing anything about implementing the recommendations.

Water with Gasoline

A few weeks ago, it was discovered that on one of the airforce bases in central Israel, 20,000 tons of gasoline had spilled on the ground and had penetrated the water well. A well of half a million cubes of water was destroyed following the incident.

The danger of gasoline flowing into water pipes is very great. The Ministry of the Interior estimates that smaller gas leaks occur on almost every airforce base. There is a real possibility that soldiers and people in nearby settlements are drinking water mixed with gasoline.

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Interior are looking into the problem.

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ISRAEL

REMOVAL OF WATER SUBSIDIES DISCUSSED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jul 86 p 7

[Article by Ron Mosenson: "To End the Water Subsidy"]

[Text] The paucity of rain over the last 3 years, especially the current year, has brought the water crisis to the public's awareness with greater impact. The attention is focused on the emergency situation that exists and on its consequences: the serious results of a possible lack of supply, the damage that could be caused by reducing rations, and the danger of imminent destruction to major water sources and carriers.

The water crisis is just part of the agricultural and settlement crisis, and is even indicative of the overall economic crisis in Israel.

An Expensive Subsidy

Water in Israel is subsidized to the extent of \$200 million a year. This subsidy is the cause of tremendous pressure on the water supply, and threatens the destruction of Mekorot. Any other item that was subsidized to such a degree would cause problems of similar severity. What's more, approximately three quarters of the above-mentioned subsidy is linked and unbudgeted. This results from the exclusion of capital costs from the national network when setting water rates, and from unrealistic pricing for the pumping of water from underground sources (whether this is done artificially, through drilling or not).

Therefore, the marginal energy cost of a cubic meter of water in the peak season in Southern Israel is approximately 30-40 cents, while the marginal output of each cubic meter is half this amount. In other words, water usage of this kind is suicidal for Makorot.

An increasingly large part of the water has over the years been used for extensive field crops, especially cotton, painting expansive areas of the country in green and white, but from the viewpoint of supplying jobs and settlement value, their benefit is low. A single settler who earns his living from field crops waters more than 200 dunams with more than 100,000 cubic meters of water a year. When the difference between the cost of water and its price is 20 cents per cubic meter, each settler is funneled more than

\$20,000 in subsidies per year via water pipelines. Unintentionally, a sort of mechanism for absorbing the subsidy given with the water has been developed, in the low settlement value and the destruction of water sources.

Two main types of development activities are taking place: Development of additional water sources and investments in saving energy. The development of additional water sources, for example, the saving of water from the Yarmuk to the Sea of Galilee, is being conducted and examined under the assumption that there already exists a national system to transport the additional water to the users who are there, even if they are unknown and neither their addresses nor their locations are recorded. The increased demand on the limited capability of the national network makes the establishment of additional facilities worth while--a third line to the Negev, a fourth pumping station in the Sea of Galilee, etc.--to increase capabilities in those areas of pressure. These facilities would "pay for themselves," by virtue of the energy they would save. It is a circular process similar to the search for profitable investments in the face of rising costs.

The full cost of the development circle even today has reached in the vicinity of \$1 per cubic meter—even before the advent of desalination which waits around the corner.

It would not be correct to say that the water authorities just woke up to this degenerating situation in 1986. In 1983, for example, a plan was prepared for a hydrological balance, including, among other things, long term investments of more than \$2 billion (approximately the cost of the Lavi project). For this purpose, doubling the development budget from approximately \$70 million to approximately \$140 million a year would have been required. This plan came into the world at the same time and season as the Israeli economy entered the phase of budget cuts and "economic recovery," and, as was the case with all development budgets, the water development budget was cut to approximately \$30 million for each of the 3 years that have passed since. This budgetary drought caused a further deterioration in the emergency water situation.

Not Allocations

The simplest and most direct method after all is to deal with the shortage by administrative budgeting. To set this in motion requires no more than an increase in the power of the administrative budgeting bodies, which already exist. Taking this route, however, would mean a lack of distinction between the remedy and the illness, because the water-related problems previously mentioned and the hydrological shortage in general are the result of this administrative network, not the lack or weakness thereof.

Dealing with the hydrological shortage in this way would require removing some of the users from the ranks, leaving the rest of the users with rationing and with subsidies. Whether this solution would resolve the hydrological shortage or not, it would not represent a significant change in the overall water problem. Therefore, the right solution is not to support settlement by

subsidizing water, but rather to implement the general principle of a financial balance of accounts with real capital costs.

If this were accomplished, the water economy would be relieved of its current total dependence on the government's development budget, and the financial balance will also find its expression in the level of water prices which will be higher than it is now. Together with the change in price level, the structure of pricing must be changed in such a way that it reflects the cost of supply in each area and season. This would be a price structure similar to that of electrical supply and demand.

The principle is to operate the water authority based on the implementation of objective, pre-defined rules and thereby remove any arbitrariness and any possibility of establishing prices for the purpose of manipulating consumer behavior toward a goal established by the authority. The cost pricing will transfer completely objective information to the users, who will choose the method of use based on this information and based on their own opinions and tastes.

The above-mentioned price levels will also determine the value of water in every region. This value will be further determined by the cost of pumping and drilling. This price structure will also determine drilling and pumping activities throughout the national network, from a financial and operational point of view.

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ISRAEL

SEVERE WATER CRISIS AFFECTS JANIN

Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI in Arabic 13 Sep 86 pp 38-39

[Article: "Janin Area Suffering From Severe Water Crisis"]

[Text] Water is one of the essential staffs of life, and no civilization can arise and no people can advance without the abundance of this vital and important element, whose existence leads to general economic activity of whatever kind, whether commercial, industrial, or agricultural. For this reason, states, governments, and establishments strive hard to ensure the availability of water resources and to care for them, and to search for the best methods guaranteeing that water will reach the multitudes of citizens and farmers without exception.

Rain is the principle source of water resources. From the time of the first human being up until the present, he has been able to search out various and diverse means and methods of preserving and storing water and making use of it, beginning with his use of holes and naturally occurring wells, ,and ending with his building of canals, dams, and artesian wells that go deep underground and in which modern machinery is used, and of networks and lines which bring the water to the home of every citizen, simply and easily.

Our Land Is Rich In Water, But..!

The water resources that feed the arteries of life in our country are divided among rain water, springs, and deep subterranean water. They are not scarce, as one might imagine at first glance; in fact the deep underground waters are plentiful, in spite of the terrible drop in rainfall over the past 3 years. The water crises which are occurring in West Bank towns is not attributable to a scarcity of water in our land, but rather to other factors, most notably the difficult situation that we live under. We will try to explore these factors elsewhere, but at this point it will suffice us to say that there is plenty of water deep underground, but the harsh restrictions by the authorities and limited material capabilities are the two main factors that prevent the drilling of deep artesian wells that would reach the streams of water deep underground and for which modern machinery and advanced pumps would be employed. Perhaps a quick glance comparing the amount of water discharged by modern Israeli wells to that

discharged by old Arab wells is the best proof of what we are saying, especially since the Arab artesian wells, which were dug prior to 1967 with old equipment, do not reach the level of the modern, advanced machinery used in the Israeli wells operating at this time.

Water Crises Have Become Apparent

Our towns and villages in the occupied territory are experiencing successive water crises. He who follows the news of the people and lives with their sorrows and suffering will notice that they are fighting and complaining loudly, demanding that the responsible parties provide a solution to the crises and work towards providing water to the thirsty homes. And it seems that the water crisis is not limited to one city, rather it has become an obvious phenomenon in various cities, villages, and camps.

The number of people has increased, as has their demand and need for water, so the old artesian wells are no longer enough to meet the needs of the people for drinking, washing, household uses, and watering trees and crops. There is no doubt that allowing the people to drill new artesian wells is the only way to obtain a sound solution to this crisis which is causing stress, anxiety, and tension.

The Severe Water Crisis In Janin

The city of Janin and its jurisdiction is one of the geographical areas that has been directly affected by the water cut-off and the drop in the water level in the artesian wells, since the population of the city and the camp have been suffering from this severe crisis for the past several months. These months have been marked by stress and hardship and many problems which have messed up their lives. Even if the people whose homes lie in low areas are somewhat lucky because the water can get to them from time to time, those whose homes are on the shoulders or lower slopes of hills do not get water because they are high above the surface of the ground on one hand, and because the pressure in the lines is weak, on the other. The people of the city of Janin and the camp have gone looking for other sources of water in order to make sure that their parched homes get some, and they get it using hand carts and horses, bringing it from wells near and far. Other people have it in their reservoirs, and doubtless that costs them a lot, which an average family would not be able to pay, especially if its income were limited and if the family were large. Once cistern costs 5 Jordanian dinars; as for a large cistern, that costs 10 dinars. Knowing that a small tank full of water is used up in 1 week, and that the homeowner must buy a second tank, and a third, and a fourth during a single month, we realize, with a few simple calculations, that he must spend 20 dinars on the cost of water alone!

One of the people of the city answered a question that we directed at him during the severe water crisis that the city was experiencing, saying: "For about 5 months we have been suffering this severe crisis, which has caused

problems for us and daily hardship. The water comes through the faucets only intermittently and for limited periods of time. All the members of my family are being frugal in their use of water."

When a big tank arrived to discharge water and distribute it to the people, they crowded around it and tried to beat one another in fulfilling their containers. The hardship caused by the water cutoff is not limited only to homes, rather, the owners of shops, factories, and establishments are also complaining; especially those shops that use a lot of water, such as butchers, restaurants, medical clinics of various sorts, beauty parlors, and coffee shops.

Neighboring Villages are Also Suffering From the Crisis!

The water crisis is not limited only to the city of Janin and the camp, rather it extends to the many neighboring villages, though it is not as severe and has come more slowly. That is because every one of the homes of the villages that surround the city has one well that supplies the people's water needs. However, the rain water that filled the collection wells ended a long time ago because of the small amount of rain that fell during the past season, and this has forced the people of these villages to fill their nearby artesian wells from the tanks and reservoirs behind some of them, standing in long lines, awaiting their turn for 2 or 3 long hours, until the owner of the tank can fill it.

And it seems that the owners of the tractors and trucks are exploiting the people and fleecing them, since they are demanding very high prices, multiplied several times; however, those people reject the accusation that they are being exploitative, because they have forced to raise the price of a tank because the owners of the water pumps have raised the price. They have also refused to compensate them for the lost time spent waiting for their turn, which takes a long time because of the large crowds, as well as the scarcity of artesian wells in operation in the Janin region.

The Agricultural Sector is Threatened by Drought

The agricultural sector in the Janin region has come to be threatened with decline and demise. Agricultural irrigation has declined, and one dunum has come to cost the farmer a lot of money because of the severe cutback in the flow of water coming out of underground wells. Subsequently, there is not enough water to irrigate vast areas, which has forced the farmers to retreat from the planting of new varieties, fearing that they would dry up, decline, die, and burden them with heavy material costs. Thus, the farmer has come to toil day and night, but when the fruit ripens and he sells the crop, he finds that the money in his hand is not his own; rather he must pay it to the owners of the water pumps, who sell him one hour for 6 Jordanian dinars, knowing that a severe shortage has hit these wells.

The farmer, Abu al-Amin, had a plot of land with an area of 3 dunums which he had planted with Jew's mallow. The water cost him 150 dinars, and after the crop had been cut, he collected 140 dinars, which he paid immediately to the owner of the water, adding to it 10 dinars from his own pocket!

Concerning his psychological state he replied: "I feel sad and sorrowful. All my work has gone for nothing. Gone from my mind are the dreams that used to spur me on. Here I have decided to plow my land and to leave it fallow for the next few months until the rain falls so I can plant it once again, because I simply do not have enough capital."

Water Resources in the Janin Region

The past 3 years have seen a drop in the amount of rainfall that the people have been accustomed to, as the following table shows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Janin</u>	<u>Qabatiyah</u>	<u>Bayt Qad</u>	<u>Ya'bud</u>	<u>Tubas</u>	<u>Maythlun</u>
83/84	373.8mm	417.7mm	325.5mm	524.3mm	317mm	477.2mm
84/85	301.2	420.9	288	528.3	318	513
85/86	394.1	449.4	317.8	564.2	337	500.5

The table shows us the following:

-- The amount of rain that fell during the last 3 years is very much the same and below the average needed to irrigate the land summer and winter.

-- The amount of rain fluctuated from one geographical region to the next during a single season and over the past 3 years.

-- The Ya'bud region had the most rain of all the geographical regions, followed by the Maythlun region then the Qabatiyah region.

Underground springs: The springs that gushed spontaneously out of the rocks used to constitute the main source of drinking water for the Palestinian population of the region, who used to fill up their earthenware jugs from them and transport them on the backs of animals, and on the heads of women, who were popularly known as "fillers." These springs used to appear during abundant winter seasons, and they would continue to flow in the valleys, depressions, and plains until the middle of summer, without the people exploiting them or initiating the building of canals, dams, and large reservoirs-- so, they went to waste!

However, these seasonal springs no longer appear these days. Indeed, they have dried up because of the drilling of deep artesian wells, especially the Israeli wells which have a tremendous discharge force. The best proof of that is the al-Maqta' River; it used to gather its waters from several different streams which flowed together into one water course, cutting its way from Marj Ibn 'Amir to flow eventually into the Mediterranean Sea. But this river has dried up, and the streams and canals that used to feed it from several places in the Janin region have run dry.

Collection wells: The collection wells are one of the important features that distinguish the homes of the citizens in our Arab Palestinian villages, since having a well is considered a vital necessity that cannot be dispensed with. It is an old tradition of the civilization, which is still followed at the present time. A well is usually 5 or 7 meters deep, with a similar width at the bottom. It fills up with water in the winter, and is used for drinking and household purposes. The water is cool, sweet, and pure.

The people have now started to use small electric pumps to pump the water and raise it up to a storage tank, and from there to pipes that go into the house. It is obvious that the rains are no longer enough to fill the collection wells, which forces the people to fill them from tanks. There is no doubt that these wells play an important role in providing and preserving water, especially during crises and hard times.

Artesian wells: We do not have precise statistics on the number of artesian wells present in the Janin region. However, we do know that the villages of Kafr Dan, Barqayn, Qabatiyah, al-Jalamah, and 'Arabah are the most important regions that have an abundance of these wells, but doubtless they are few in number compared to the population in the region and the area of level, arable land. If we were to try to find an explanation for the small number of artesian wells, we would see that the restrictions imposed by the authorities on the drilling of new wells is the primary reason, since these water pumps were there prior to 1967.

There is no doubt that this limited number of wells played an important role in stimulating the agricultural sector in the Janin region, since they turned the bare fields into flourishing fields waving with ripe greenery. They also supplied the people with fresh, pure water by means of water networks and reservoirs, and finally they helped to stimulate economic activity generally.

When these wells were drilled prior to 1967, the tools and machinery that were used for drilling them was somewhat old, compared to the modern machinery that exists at the present time. Therefore, these wells do not go deep into the lower layers of the ground; in fact, they are not more than 150 meters deep, and not less than 60 meters. On this basis, these wells are negatively affected by restricted rainfall, and their waters are afflicted by a severe and serious shortage, especially at the end of summer and the beginning of fall, when the amount of water extracted is cut by half. Moreover, some of the wells dry up finally, and often fine, white sand mixes with them, which is a sign that the well needs to be deepened into the lower layers of the ground that are full of water. The following table shows us how the depth of an artesian well affects the amount of water extracted from the depths, and it also shows us how the productivity of these wells is affected by restricted rainfall.

Well Number	Depth	Peak Well Productivity	Well Productivity in Seasons	
		In the Rainy Seasons	of Restricted Rainfall	
1	150m	(20 m ³) per hour	60 m ³	per hour
2	80m	60 m ³ per hour	30 m ³	per hour
3	70m	50 m ³ per hour	20 m ³	per hour
4	60m	30 m ³ per hour	12 m ³	per hour

Proposals and Solutions

The existence of water resources, and their availability in abundance, is a vital and very important issue, and we should all strengthen them and preserve them and show them care and concern. The severe water crises cannot be escaped, through radical, beneficial solutions, without drilling deep wells with modern, advanced tools. Our land, as we have seen before, does not lack for water; in fact, water is there in abundance in the depths, but the authorities refuse to give drilling licenses except in a very few cases.

Since this solution is not possible at the present time, because of the extraordinary circumstances that the occupied land is experiencing, that forces us to think of other ways of lessening the severity of this crisis and of preserving the water sources in the region through the following points:

- Repairing the existing wells, increasing their depth into the ground, and replacing old pumps and machinery with new, advanced ones, so that the water will gush out in copious amounts.
- Being economical in the use of water, especially during crises; cooperation and solidarity among the people, and no exploitation of the people and farmers by well owners.
- Digging collection wells in the homes, to be filled during the winter, and when they are completed they can be filled from tanks, without there being a crisis.
- Using modern methods of irrigation, which use the drip method, which reduces the amount of water extracted and saves it for times of need.
- Making an attempt to benefit from the streams flowing in the winter by building canals and large reservoirs.

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ISRAEL

LARGEST POWER STATION UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN ASHQELON

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (Ashqelon Supplement) in Hebrew 12 Oct 86 pp 4, 5

[Article by Gil Judelowitz: "The Power Station in Ashqelon"]

[Text] The power station that is being built near the Eilat-Ashqelon oil pipeline, south of Ashqelon, will be the largest in Israel, with a capacity of 1,100 megawatts which is approximately one-fourth of the country's electricity consumption. The workers who will operate the station will live in Ashqelon and its surroundings. The highest smokestack in the country will be built there (250 meters), and the turbo-generator stators of the station will also be the largest: 420 tons each. The number of personnel to be employed here will exceed 2,000.

Already in the first stages of the project thousands of tons of steel were brought to the site for the station's skeletal structure. Altogether the power station will require 13,000 tons of steel. Pipes with a 102 inch diameter and 1,500 meter length were dug into the ground for the 150,000 cubic meters of seawater an hour that will be pumped to cool the two power blocks during operation (the equivalent of Tel Aviv's consumption in 24 hours).

The power company is preparing to hire a professional corps of engineers and technicians who will operate the power station. One million tons of coal will be required when the first unit of the Ashqelon power plant is put into operation, and double that quantity will be necessary every year when the second unit becomes operational. Huge coal storage facilities will be built on the site of the power station, and a special train will transport the coal from the port of Ashdod directly into storage. The coal will be moved from one place to another on automatic conveyor belts.

Exactly 33 months after work began on the southern power station of the Electric Company, the project manager is optimistic: "There has never been such a complex and complicated project in the history of the company. The fact that the initial planning was very detailed has permitted an impressively precise execution," says the manager, David Zander.

At the beginning of 1978 a few men equipped with strange looking equipment appeared in the deserted area not far from Ashqelon. They measured the land and compared elevations. Locals who happened by did not then imagine that the

southernmost power station of the Electric Company would be erected there, a station that could supply 1/4 of Israel's electricity consumption. Its construction near Ashqelon had met with stormy opposition, particularly from Ashqelon inhabitants and organizations concerned with the quality of life. They had feared that the station smokestack would seriously pollute the air in the area.

It took 3 years to locate a suitable site for the project. Two other sites, farther south, had first been considered, but were found to be unsatisfactory. In July 1981 the engineers began planning the new power station, and it took 2 years before the workers arrived and began the construction work. One of the first steps in the project was the shipment of a huge floating crane from Hadera to the Ashqelon oil port. Cost estimates of the project cite an investment of about \$1 billion.

The management and executives of the Electricity Company could not stop marveling at the scope of the project, which is taking up some 60 percent of the company's entire development budget.

The construction plans of the new power plant are still at the testing stage and there are still snags in the timetable. Some errors may not come to light for years. That is why the planners were required to take particular care in designing every stage of the project. Thus, for example, the actual construction work began after 5 years of planning. The workers started from scratch. They had to build not only the power station, but also an access road, power and water networks, storage facilities, workshops, a messhall, and lavatories for the workers. David Zander displays a huge aerial photograph taken only 2 years earlier: "This is how the site looked at the beginning, just sand, more sand, and bushes," he says. A subsequent series of photographs shows how the 1,200 dunam area gradually changed its appearance. "In mid-December 1983 we began to dig. We took out about 1 million cubic meters of dirt and created a sort of protected dish in which we began building. Up to this stage we had already poured 120,000 cubic meters of concrete and several tons of reinforced concrete," Zander explains.

In addition, underground pipe networks and equipment have already been mounted on an area of over 100 kilometers. Inside will be laid control, power, communication, and dozens of other cables serving various purposes.

Some 1,000 workers are already engaged in the work, out of which 590 are company employees (340 are temporary). "Already in 1 year's time we will need another 300-400 men. At the peak of the construction work we will require a few hundred more mechanics, electricians, and electronics and communication people. We already have a serious problem because people do not want to work. Today I am missing more than 50 men, and the day is not far off when we have to appeal to the employment agency in Tel Aviv--and I do not know how successful that will turn out," the site manager adds.

In the meantime a special working method has been developed. Most of the operations are advancing in step with the rate of progress of the boiler, which is the most complex and central component of the system. The Electric Company has adopted a course organized by the Labor Ministry in Ashqelon for

soldiers separating from service. The young men learn welding and metal work, and 15 matriculants have already been given jobs on site. But that is not a sufficient number. "We wanted to open an additional course ourselves but we had no candidates," Zander says.

As we said, the assembly of the boiler is very complicated, beginning with the digging, the laying of the boiler foundation, the metal structure, and the mounting itself. What is the boiler? Zander explains: "It is like a big kettle that is filled with water and heated with liquid fuel or coal. Steam is generated. The steam is not allowed to escape. The temperature and the pressure increase, and the steam is brought to the turbine. That is a turning axle on which blades are mounted. The steam turns the turbine axis, which is connected to the generator axis, and this is how electricity is produced, after which it is transported, through a transformer, to the consumer. The steam is returned to its original form--water--because a lot of money was sunk into that water. The water is pumped into the boiler and the heating process is repeated."

The Ashqelon power plant is the first to have been planned entirely on a nationalistic basis, and efforts are being made to purchase locally-made equipment whenever possible. After many years of expert assistance from the United States, the planning was transferred to Israel in its entirety. Hundreds of people participated in the endeavor, and more than 2 million planning hours have been invested in the project.

According to the original plan the first plant unit should have come into operation in April of this year, but the site permit was released with a delay of 2 years. The team went out to the site 3 years later than the originally planned date. The start-up deadline has been postponed to 1989. Now, 33 months after the beginning of the work, it looks like it will indeed be completed on schedule.

The Regional Office of the Electric Company in Ashqelon: "The Regular, Current, and Almost Unnoticed Supply of Electricity Has Impressed Us." Anonymity is a source of great pride to the employees of the Electric Company at the Ashqelon regional office.

"We are a consumer service, and we are at our best when our presence is not felt, because when everything is 'going smoothly' people do not even realize the number of disruptions that could occur," they say unmarked service trucks crisscross the southern area and always arrive at the right place and at the right time. A complex system stands behind this service.

The higher our living standard goes, the greater the demand for electrical power, and we have become accustomed to the failure-free supply.

The Electric Company not only produces the power, but it also distributes it. It is the job of the regional offices to distribute the power to the consumers, beginning with the secondary power stations and down to individual homes. The services offered are both commercial and technical. The technical services include: preventive maintenance for all power lines, repair of possible power failures, and connection of new consumers to the power network.

What Are the Consumer Services Offered?

In the case of a newly built house or plant the service begins with the application of the individual who requests power supply. The regional office is in charge of all such applications and the connection between the individual and the headquarters in Tel Aviv.

Once the building is connected to the network, an inspector checks the site and only after that is the contract signed with the Electric Company and the meter put into operation.

One should realize that the connection of a new consumer may even take 1 whole year if there is no power network on the site.

The Operational Sphere of the Ashqelon Regional Office

The Ashqelon office is in charge of an area that stretches from the southern limits of Ashdod to the west of Gaza, including the northern part of the Gaza Strip. This area includes settlements such as: Qiryat Gat, Qiryat Mal'akhay, Sderot, and some 20 kibbutzim and 54 moshavim [cooperative villages].

Most of the kibbutzim in the area have industrial plants, since Ashqelon is a relatively new area (about 25 years), and the condition of the power lines is very good. Extensive development is still expected in the future. People at the local office are convinced that the company will be able to satisfy all demands in the near future.

Currently the office services a Jewish population of 150,000 people and five industrial areas. The more sophisticated the industry becomes, the more important it is to have reliable power supplies.

And in order to meet that challenge the power company has to exercise continual preventive maintenance, such as: checking poles, checking power lines, cutting down trees, checking ground connections, etc. Only appropriate performance of all those operations can secure reliable supplies.

With the coming of winter the Electric Company intensifies the pace of its inspections, and the results are evident: until 10 years ago there used to be some 40 power failures per 100 km; now there are only 11-12 disturbances on the same length of line.

"With each new industrial, agricultural, or urban development we are there to supply power at the right place and the right time, and that is what gives us satisfaction," says Mordekhay Rosh, the manager of the Ashqelon local office. "The Electric Company is ready to meet any requirement raised by urban development. We have erected a new secondary power station south of Ashqelon with the express view to reinforce the power supply to the area around the city itself. Each one of the 43 office employees contributes to ensuring a reliable consumer service, and that is something we are proud of," concludes Mordekhay Rosh.

ISRAEL

DEPORTATION OF BLACK HEBREWS BEGINS

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 31 Jul 86 p 6

[Article by David Golan and Ya'ir Pidel: "The Black Hebrews: The Deportation Begins"]

[Text] Starting this morning, 46 of the black Hebrews will be deported. The action occurs after the Supreme Court yesterday denied two pleas against the Ministry of the Interior's intentions to deport them. The first plea was submitted by two youths who were caught when they climbed a school fence and were accused of trespassing. The second plea was submitted by a group of 46 black Hebrews, against whom a deportation order had been issued. The only delay in their deportation now lies in finding seats for them on flights to the United States, flights which these days are full. In all, there are now 52 black Hebrews in custody awaiting deportation, all of whom will be deported in the near future.

The Population Administration within the Ministry of the Interior was very pleased with the High Court of Justice decision allowing the deportation of the black Hebrews. The blacks have been living in Israel illegally. The High Court of Justice decided that it had no reason to interfere in the Ministry of the Interior's considerations for deporting them, and only asked that the deportation be humane. The Ministry of the Interior estimates that there are 2000 black Hebrews living in Israel, 80 percent of whom are in the town of Dimona and the rest in 'Arad and Mitzpe Ramon.

HADASHOT was informed that last Thursday, one of the leaders of the black Hebrew sect in Dimona was arrested. He is thought to be the assistant of Ben-'Ami Carter, the sect's leader. The Ministry of the Interior had information indicating that he was executing a bad influence on members of the group and that he was suspected of crimes. It was decided to deport him. On Monday of this week, even before he was able to appeal the judgment, he was put on a plane. The head of the Population Administration in the Ministry of the Interior, Yehoshu'a Kahan'a, said: "There was good reason for his deportation."

According to Kahan'a, since the Ministry of the Interior began intensive operations against the black Hebrews, there has been great incitement within the sect. Today, their economic situation is not good because they have

stopped receiving funds from the United States. Seventy black Hebrews are under arrest in the United States as suspects in criminal cases. The black Hebrews in the United States have to worry about their jailed friends and cannot help those in Israel.

Apparently, the black Hebrew sect expected the court's decision, although they had hoped for a decision in their favor. Now, after the High Court of Justice denied their appeal for a second time, the Ministry of the Interior believes they will return to the United States. "We will continue the same actions to bring resolution to the problem of the black Hebrews and to bring about their deportation from Israel. We have various ways, not necessarily deportation," says Yehoshu'a Kahan'a.

Almost daily, the Ministry of the Interior receives new notifications of black Hebrews intending to enter Israel. Since the Glass report was submitted 6 years ago, addressing the problem, no black Hebrews have entered Israel. The Ministry of the Interior, based on the information it receives, arrests the black Hebrews at Ben-Gurion airport and returns them to the countries whence they came.

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ISRAEL

BRIEFS

CEMENT EXPORTS TO EGYPT FROZEN--The contacts arranged between the Nesher company and elements in Egypt concerning the export of some 200,000 tons of cement yearly to the eastern Sinai region--Rafah and al-'Arish--have been frozen for failure to obtain the approval of the Egyptian government for the deal. The export would have brought some \$10 million to Israel. Israel was in a relatively more advantageous position to sell cement to the al-'Arish and Rafah areas, where building is now on the upswing, than Egyptian firms which have to ship the cement from the western part of the Suez Canal. The contacts had been conducted with the assistance of Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, and until a few months ago it was believed that Nesher would win the right to export to Egypt, something that would have opened up for it a new market for many years to come and allowed it to increase its production, which had dropped in the wake of the crisis in the construction branch. We must also note that the commercial relations between Israel and Egypt have been almost completely frozen in the past few years. [Text] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Oct 86 p 2] 12782

CSO:4423/6

SAUDI ARABIA

TRADE DEFICIT WITH GCC STATES NOTED

Riyadh RIYADH DAILY in English 19 Oct 86 p 2

[Text]

RIYADH, Oct. 18 (SPA) — Saudi Arabia's exports (national plus foreign goods) to Gulf Cooperation Council states totalled SR1,221 million during the second half of 1985 while its imports from the GCC states accounted for SR1,620 million, showing a trade deficit of SR399.4 million during this period.

The latest review of the Kingdom's trade with GCC countries during the second half of 1985, released here today by the foreign trade department of the Commerce Ministry, said the Kingdom's export figures are provisional and subject to revision as they excluded the value of crude oil shipment to Bahrain during this period.

It said 54.6 percent of the Kingdom's total exports to GCC states during the second half of 1985

went to Bahrain, 25.9 percent to UAE, 13.3 percent to Kuwait, 4.5 percent to Qatar and 1.7 percent to Oman.

Likewise, 41.8 percent of the Kingdom's total imports from the GCC states during this period

tries during the second half of 1985.

The review said it is worthwhile to note the value of the Kingdom's exports of national products (excluding foreign goods) to the GCC countries amounted to SR1,002.2

(Value: Million Saudi riyals)

country	Kingdom's total exports (National plus foreign goods)	Kingdom's total imports (National plus foreign goods)
Kuwait	162.2	453.3
Bahrain	665.5	295.9
Qatar	55.3	162.9
Oman	20.8	30.6
UAE	316.2	677.7
Total	1,221	1,620

came from UAE, 28 percent from Kuwait, 18.3 percent from Bahrain, 10.1 percent from Qatar and over 1.8 percent from Oman.

The following table shows the Kingdom's trade with GCC coun-

million in the second half of 1985, whereas the Kingdom's imports of national products (excluding foreign goods) from the GCC countries were valued at SR886.3 million during the same period.

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CSO: 4400/55

SAUDI ARABIA

PETROLUBE PLANT EXPANSION COMPLETED

Riyadh RIYADH DAILY in English 26 Oct 86 p 2

[Text]

RIYADH, Oct. 25 (SPA) — Petromin Lubricating Oils Company (Petrolube) has completed a major expansion project of its Riyadh plant using its own financial resources.

The new plant became operational in early 1986 raising its design capacity to 500,000 bbl per year from an initial annual capacity of 175,000 bbl, said Petrolube's latest annual report released here today.

The report said the company earned a net profit of SR 30.89 million in 1985 against SR 45.91 million earned during 1984, showing a drop of 33 percent over last year.

"Rate of decline in net income in excess of volume decline was the direct result of higher discount allowed and increase in other sales-related costs incurred to meet stiff competition in the marketplace. However, the present earning levels are considered satisfactory recognizing the changing economic realities currently sweeping the domestic market," Mahmoud A. Sultan, the company's chairman, said.

"Improvement in our performance in areas like product quality, technical assistance, field service and extensive distribution network has no doubt generated affluent expansion of demand for those speciality grades of oils which we were unable so far to penetrate in the market," he added.

The company, an affiliate of Petromin, is the first company in the Kingdom to set up a lube oil blending and packaging plant in Jeddah, which went into production in August 1971. The original Jeddah plant, being of 75,000 bbl annual capacity, was later expanded in 1978 to 500,000 bbl per year of design capacity. Another grassroot plant was subsequently set up by the company in Riyadh in 1980 to meet growing demand in the Central and Eastern region with an initial annual capacity of 175,000 bbl, which has also undergone major expansion in 1985, raising its design capacity to 500,000 bbl per year.

The report said Petrolube's sale of lubricants and allied products in the Kingdom was affected by a stagnant domestic demand during 1985, dropping the volume by 13 percent compared to last year for the first time in ten years, which can be ascribed to economic slowdown.

Referring to its funds position, the report said the company enjoyed in 1985 comfortable funds position — thanks to sufficient cash generation from current operations, without recourse to borrowings.

Mahmoud Sultan said in the face of increasingly volatile global economic prospects, Petrolube has an optimistic outlook for the future, spurred by unstinted government patronage and active support of Saudi consumers.

"Our dedicated endeavors to expand the sales of Petromin brand lubricants beyond our national boundaries will be the key ingredients to our future growth," he said.

He expressed deep gratitude to the government of King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah for the gracious support and benign patronage of Saudi products and the economy in general.

"The outstanding growth attained by Petrolube during such a short period of time was possible only under the wise directions and enlightened guidance of the Saudi Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ministry and Petromin, which deserves special mention. I also thank the company's employees whose dedication and diligence made us the undisputed leader in the lubricants industry in the Kingdom," he said.

Referring to its sales performance, the report said the volume decline sustained by Petrolube was a modest 7 percent. "In spite of the decrease, new customers were obtained specially in Riyadh area as a result of new marketing strategy followed by Petrolube.

"During 1985, our advertising strategy was drastically changed, concentrating from traditional press advertising, give-aways, exhibitions, seminars, prizes and competitions. The company participated in five international exhibitions and shows in different parts of the world and 14 domestic events, exhibitions and shows in different cities in the Kingdom thus making 1985 the busiest year of activity in the vital area of advertising and publicity," it said.

In the field of operations during the year under review, the report said total production at both plants, which included third party blending operations, fell short of 1984 level by 7 percent — Jeddah plant having a shortfall of 8 percent and Riyadh plant 6 percent.

Since its formation in 1968, the company has been supplying the local market through blending,

packaging and marketing lube oils, which high-quality products conforming to international standards and suitable to local weather conditions.

It was awarded a certificate of good quality products by API in 1983 and earned recommendations from prominent manufacturers.

In 1984, Petrolube Jeddah produced a total of 983,446 barrels and Petrolube Riyadh produced a total of 361,824 barrels.

Referring to key financial indicators, which reaffirm the financial soundness of the company, the report said the level of working capital maintained during 1985 remained the same as last year, with cash funds having doubled in 1985 and fixed assets value having increased by 36 percent over last year.

"Shareholders equity increased by 18 percent while long-term liabilities were reduced in 1985 by 10 percent. Book value per share has shot up to a staggering figure of SR1,280 from SR1,082 last year. The foregoing facts lend credence to the financial health of the company despite the fall in operating profit," the report said.

The watch-word of the company's strategy continues to be expansion. Accordingly, four major modernization and improvement projects were approved at Jeddah plant during 1985 which when completed will lead to economy in operations, higher productivity and increased storage space.

In addition, the company completed major expansion project of the Riyadh blending plant, bringing its design capacity to the level of that of the Jeddah plant, which gives it very modern lubricants blending and packaging expanded facilities which is second to none in the Middle East.

The timing of this expansion was purposely designed to seize the opportunity of falling construction cost thus enabling the company to complete the Riyadh expansion project.

SAUDI ARABIA

PLANS TO INCREASE MINING OPERATIONS DESCRIBED

Riyadh RIYADH DAILY in English 5 Nov 86 p 2

[Text]

KUWAIT, Nov. 4 — The Kingdom, seeking to diversify its economy away from oil, is giving key role to mining of precious metals and other minerals in its industrial drive, according to a Jeddah-based university study.

One of the current five-year plan's specific goals is to develop the Kingdom's rich, non-oil mineral resources, said the study, submitted by Mahmoud Ali Darwish of King Abdulaziz University to a scientific conference in Kuwait on Gulf raw materials.

Darwish, chairman of the university's mining engineering department, noted that the plan had set aside SR4.43 billion for spending on mining.

The value of the country's recoverable reserves as of the end of last May, when the study was compiled, could exceed SR500 billion.

"The fourth five-year plan (1985-1990) emphasizes the diversification of economy away from oil by the development of industry and agriculture," said the study, co-authored by Mohammed Hanif, an assistant professor in the faculty.

It said Saudi Arabia was seeking "... to align the industrialization effort in such a way that maximum effort is made of indigenous mineral resources."

Potential advantages included savings on imports, access to reliable supplies, greater self-reliance in development and prospects for employment and business in rural areas, it said.

The study said remarkable progress had been made in the search for solid minerals, particularly in the last 15 years, with exploration concentrated on the Arabian shield.

This covers roughly the western third of the Kingdom's area and contains more than 80 percent of its known mineral deposits.

"The fourth five-year plan specifically envisages the exploration of 30 gold deposits, 20 copper deposits, 12 niobium deposits and three chrome-nickel deposits," the paper said.

Yet, notwithstanding finds of significant value in gold and associated silver and zinc, along with copper, their economic potential was much smaller than that for iron, aluminum, phosphate and a number of other raw materials such as magnesite, gypsum and limestone used in industry, it said.

Iron and aluminum, of which there were large, good-grade deposits, should especially receive "urgent attention" in order to remove a need to import ore, it said.

"These ores are immediately needed for plants in the Kingdom or other Gulf countries," it said, referring to a Saudi steel mill at the Gulf Port of Jubail and aluminum smelters in Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

Although the mining industry was still in its infancy, the study concluded, a good start was expected within the next five years"

...and it may take a further five to ten years before the industry

comes into full swing."

The study said the planned reopening next year of the long-established but only periodically used Mahd Ad-Dhahab gold mine, (400 kms.) north-east of the Red Sea city of Jeddah, would mark a good start for the new mining industry.

The mine, closed for 32 years, would reopen after the discovery of a new ore body with estimated mineable reserves of 1.1 million tons, yielding 27 grams a ton of gold and 73 grams a ton of silver along with copper and zinc.

The state-owned minerals corporation Petromin would start extracting 400 tons of ore a day, giving 2.9 tons of gold and 11 tons of silver a year for 10 years, it said.

It said a number of smaller gold and silver deposits might prove attractive to small-scale private enterprise if financial incentives and technical assistance were made available.

There was good potential too for open-pit and underground copper and combined copper-zinc mines, regardless of world market prices.

When these were low, mining and metallurgical equipment might be available cheaply, it said, adding it was also likely that the fall in oil prices might fuel demand for metals as a result of a possible improvement in economies of industrialized states.

Also, it said, "every ton mined and processed in the Kingdom will save foreign exchange and help towards self-reliant industrialization."

SAUDI ARABIA

COMMENTARY URGES INCREASED LOCAL INVESTMENT

Riyadh RIYADH DAILY in English 19 Oct 86 p 6

[Article by Abdulaziz al-Oraer]

[Text]

THE banking sector in the Kingdom plays a vital role as an "industry" that utilizes financial resources and tremendous cash reserves available either in the public or private sector, to attract local and foreign investments to develop the economy.

With the financial potential of the Kingdom, we are capable of developing the banking system and creating an investment "industry" using such finances as capital as "raw materials." Organization and new institutions can help to streamline the movement of such funds and protect them from erosion and stagnation in order to contribute effectively to the development in the Kingdom.

I would like to throw some light on the following points:

- According to a monetary agency bulletin, liquidity in the Saudi private banking system is estimated at more than SR148.9 billion in the Kingdom and more than \$30 billion abroad available for investment.

- There are no practical investments or organizations capable of directing such cash flow or meeting the needs of investors.

The Saudi Investment Bank, which was established specifi-

cally for investments, recently converted most of its business to ordinary banking duties while some banks like the commercial bank recently directed part of its business to investment needs by establishing funds.

- There are no investment channels for middle class incomes. A foreign bank has prepared a study pointing that there are great investment opportunities to the extent of SR500,000 from many individuals in the Saudi middle class and has pointed out the absence of channels and instruments or advice for owners of such funds.

Saudi banks direct their business towards bigger funds and conduct investment operations themselves, leaving the middle class investors unaware of opportunities or participation.

- There is no real awareness on the importance the mix of local and foreign investments and its effects on the national economy. The investing amounts create permanent profits and sometimes accumulate and result in developing the national economy. This can result in low wastage of resources if better organized and

encouraged.

- Not permitting or giving licenses or establishing investment organizations and permitting investment or financial consultancy offices to be a mediator for foreign organizations. This denies the country added profits if the investment is operated through national channels that achieve the profits and guarantee and acquire the customers' confidence.

- The psychological factor dominating the market and local investment — I already talked about this and its link with the legal frame and the importance of renovation and innovation spirit in the banks to create the clear means and solutions to live up with reality.

- The importance to create Islamic investment and channels for small investors. The funds to be distributed in companies' shares, goods and arbitrage with a promising increase and growth. Revenues from these vouchers can be distributed to all in accordance with each share. This business should be administered by specialist and controlled by concerned bodies to guarantee performance. Such Islamic instruments is already being offered by some Swiss banks.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

AGRICULTURAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ASPIRATIONS IN AL-JAWF DISTRICT

Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Oct 86 p 3

[Article by Muhammad Jassar: "The Progress of Agriculture in al-Jawf District"]

[Text] Land whose soil is gold. This expression is applied to al-Jawf District, which God endowed with wide fertile valleys and streams that run all year round. These natural advantages have made the region a candidate this year, in an era of comprehensive growth and exploitation of available resources, especially in the field of agriculture, for pioneering in the way for agricultural development in the future. Thus when the exploitation of al-Jawf's valley is complete, it will be an organized form of agricultural exploitation carried out by modern scientific methods in order to bring about a large migration into the area of agricultural production. Close to half of the area of al-Jawf District is fertile and appropriate for cultivating a number of kinds of agricultural crops, since this land is located in the valleys of Madhab, al-Kharid, and al-Riyan. The soil of these valleys is gold, as they say, and produces the highest quality crops. There is no better proof of this than the Khab dates, which are considered among the best kinds of dates in the Arab nation.

Beginning of the Renaissance

The region is currently witnessing the beginning of a renaissance in agriculture as a result of the guidance of the president-commander-secretary-general during his historic visit to the district, which had a very important influence in terms of both service and development, in addition to his guidance during the Ramadan evenings on the necessity of giving priority to al-Jawf, so that it can effectively contribute to pioneering progress in development. Based on these instructions, the agricultural sector has been activated with the support and effective participation of the Agricultural Cooperative Loan Bank, which prepares the most prominent service organizations in the district, the services of which the citizen receives directly and the great efforts of which they praise highly in raising the level of agricultural activity in the region.

Effective Activities of the Loan Bank

The Agricultural Cooperative Loan Bank, as Ahmad Muhiyub, director of the al-Jawf branch of the bank said, worked to open an office in al-Jawf during 1983. This office was transformed into a branch office on 1 July 1985 upon directions from the political leadership represented by the president-commander-secretary-general to support agricultural development there, especially with regard to guaranteeing basic nutritional needs, such as wheat, which al-Jawf District could meet if it improved its exploitation. The bank participates by offering loans in kind to farmers, such as agricultural machines and equipment, irrigation projects, and their requirements, in addition to digging artesian wells. Up until now, the bank has offered a total of 32,160,089 riyals in loans in kind, which have benefited about 360 people.

The director of the branch of the Agricultural Cooperative Loan Bank adds that the bank has recently purchased three leveling units for reclaiming wide tracts of agricultural land. Likewise, it has also purchased three harvesters to harvest crops in large areas in order to save time and effort.

Loan Facilitation

Concerning how loans are obtained by farmers, Ahmad Muhiyub said that the bank eagerly facilitates in all ways granting loans and paying them off. "In addition to the very symbolic interest rate charged, we facilitate loans for the farmers in one of two ways:

"First, we are paid in kind: the bank receives wheat, barley, and corn from the farmers, estimates their value, and then deducts it from the loan.

"Second, money payments, where the farmer pays off the rest of his debt monetarily, from the returns he receives from cultivating certain fruits and vegetables, which he markets himself. Usually the payments are annual or bi-annual, depending on the purpose of the loan."

Role of the Agricultural Bureau

For its part, the Ministry of Agriculture bureau in al-Jawf District plays a significant role in turning the wheel of agricultural development, said Hasan al-Sadiq Sa'id, agricultural engineer in the bureau.

The activity of the bureau is represented in the process of agricultural guidance that includes the following areas:

-Providing insecticides and sprays to farmers and explaining how to use and maintain them.

-Providing fertilizers to farmers and explaining how to use them, with clarification on the possibility of using human and animal fertilizers available in the region.

-Providing improved seeds compared to the local seeds.

-Guiding the farmers on using sound agricultural procedures.

The bureau and its activities have been accepted by the farmers despite its limitations.

Veterinary Center Is Needed

Hasan, who is the only employee in the Agricultural Ministry bureau in al-Jawf, digressed, saying:

Since there are a large number of animal resources in al-Jawf, the veterinary services project has sent veterinary teams to treat and inoculate animals. This made a good impression on the farmers and animal owners and brought them to ask for the establishment of a permanent veterinary center in the city of Al-Hazm, which would be provided with the necessary capabilities to carry out its duties in the best way possible.

More Effective Activity Needed

Through the activities of the Agriculture Ministry bureau in al-Jawf District, we found that the activity of the bureau with its sole employee was almost entirely bureaucratic and was limited to extremely narrow theoretical agricultural guidance. It is supposed in this region, which has promise of a bright future in agriculture, that the Ministry of Agriculture's presence in the district would be effective through its bureau, which should be reinforced with the necessary agricultural and veterinary engineers, instructors, etc. and with the necessary qualifications and be supported with basic necessities, means of communication, scientific methods, improved seeds, fertilizers, and insecticides, so that the activity of the bureau will be in step with the general direction of the state aimed at galvanizing agriculture in the region.

Production In Which Region Excels

In a brief conversation with a farmer, Bandar Ahmad Kharsan, in al-Jawf District, we learned about the products in which the region excels and also about the methods followed in agriculture and the problems that the farmer faces in al-Jawf district.

He said:

The land in al-Jawf is appropriate for cultivating many kinds of grains, vegetables, and fruits, which, as a result of the fertility of the soil, are considered among the highest quality. I believe that people still remember the watermelons produced in the region last year for their large size, excellent quality, and tastiness, in addition to the large quantity that the Yemeni markets carried to the degree of satiation or even excess, although the area cultivated is only a small, insignificant portion of the agricultural land in al-Jawf. The region also cultivates all different kinds of grains, including Egyptian wheat, (buni wheat), sesame, corn, and barley, and as you know, it cultivates large quantities of these.

Last year, large areas of land were cultivated with wheat and different kinds of grains and the markets carried significant quantities of them, despite the fact that a frost struck the region and, for the first time in its history, destroyed the entire crop.

Marketing Is the Biggest Problem

The greatest problem is marketing, inasmuch as we face great difficulty in this as a result of the absence of a paved road, which destroys our fruits and vegetables. Likewise, there is no agricultural cooperative to market produce and to offer various agricultural services to the residents of the region.

Another that the residents of al-Matammah area face is that their dependence on al-Kharid stream water, which supplies the region, its fields, and its animals, was complete. Recent torrents have carried away the dirt barrier that directed the water to the area and the region has begun to suffer from drought as a result. The government soon became aware of the situation and built a dam to direct the water, which cost millions of riyals. However, the project was not carried out correctly and we thus find that the dam has not brought about any noticeable benefits.

You also know that the well water is not potable nor is it appropriate for agriculture, although the wells are very deep. Thus this area needs much work. We thank the Agricultural Cooperative Loan Bank for its cooperation of offering farmers great services to aid them in the agricultural renaissance.

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YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

1985-86 SCHOOL YEAR IN AL-TA'IZZ DISTRICT REVIEWED

Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 10 Oct 86 p 3

[Article by Riyad Shamsan: "September Meetings and National Accomplishments: the Era of the Revolution Is an Era of Planning and Programming and of Great Achievements in All Areas"]

[Text] We continue our publication of September meetings and accomplishments in Ta'izz District in celebration of the 24th anniversary of the glorious September revolution, for September is the birth of a bright new smiling dawn. September means science, education, culture, and glory. Our country has witnessed a great educational renaissance under the aegis of the victorious September revolution and the resplendent era of the charter under the leadership of the president-commander-secretary general, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Precise Accounts

With regard to Ta'izz District, I would like to say first of all that everything in the years of the last 20 centuries and the necessities of development and sound growth force us to steer clear of haphazardness and guessing. The preparation of precise accounts and clear and realistic data depend on scientific field research as the only method of arriving at reality. Therefore, stemming from this are designed plans and programs that are appropriate to the size of existing problems without exaggerating the available possibilities and without parsimony in economizing on needs and necessities.

Therefore, the education bureau of Ta'izz District is issuing a detailed statistical analysis of educational progress in the district, which includes in the workforce students at various educational levels in both general studied and vocational and technical specialized education.

Age of Planning and Programming

The goal of all this is to be a key to specialized agencies, most importantly the research and educational progress center. This key will open before them the way to designing concepts by which educational needs are met and which develop at a pace that surpasses the pace of time, so that we may be of assistance to researchers and those studying the stages of educational development in our beloved country, and may be a scientific resource from which planners

in general and educational planners in particular can benefit. The age is an age of planning and scientific programming based on precise and realistic data, statistics, and information. If we were without pride, we would work only for the sake of Yemen. Our feelings for natural development push us toward this and president-commander-secretary general Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who has not taken any time to rest but has worked continuously and made endless efforts for the sake of our country, prods us toward this. He is our paradigm in work, effort, and giving.

The following are statistics on the Ta'izz District schools for the academic year 1986-86.

Information and Culture

Husayn Muhammad Shuja' al-Din, director general of information and culture of Ta'izz District, said:

We are proud to say that cultural activities exist today on the level of the city, village, and their various categories throughout the year in order to underscore the accomplishments of the revolution. In a comparison between the troubles of the past and the accomplishments of the present, these activities have flourished and have been broadened in the era of Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the Popular congress.

The Office of Information and Culture in Ta'izz is one of the agencies of the Ministry of Information and Culture and discharges its mission according to the dictates of its national and functional responsibilities for the sake of educating the citizens and raising their level of awareness so that they stay in step with the progress of the revolution. This is what the president-commander-secretary-general urges in all his instructions and what the goals of the 26 September Revolution signify. This is also what the contents of the national charter urge.

With regard to the accomplishments of the office in 1985-86, it has created theatrical, musical, folk dancing and visual arts groups and holds seminars and lectures in the various areas of the district.

The ministry charged the office with gathering works from popular culture and Yemeni folklore and held a show for traditional clothes.

The office brought out everything possible in the Arts Festival, reflecting the joy of the people on the occasion of the anniversary of the glorious revolution and their living in the shadow of long-term stability.

Many Accomplishments

The discussion of the national accomplishments that have been realized during 1986-86 in Ta'izz District. The district has witnessed many September accomplishments. The Third General Popular Congress was held last August to crown these great gains.

Health

Health benefits from the interest of the state in building a healthy and sound society. There are a large number of hospitals located in Ta'izz. There are also 38 clinics staffed by doctors and nurses, 16 other clinics staffed by assistant doctors, and around 31 clinics in the process of being built and providing services. In addition, work is currently being done to equip the hospitals and clinics with the necessary equipment.

Accomplishments of the Municipalities

Last year, a number of projects were carried out, including asphalting and repairing a number of streets, paving sidewalks with flagstones, repairing tree beds, and planting them with trees. In addition the (Hittinah) surface bridge has been opened. There are projects in the process of being implemented, including the asphalting of five streets. The municipal office of Ta'izz is also implementing the third stage of a project to light six streets in Ta'izz City. With regard to future projects of the municipal office of Ta'izz, it has a plan to construct five bridges and to build, asphalt, and improve several streets in Ta'izz City and in certain district centers. The plan is a proviso for the study of the Municipal and Housing Ministry.

Water and Sewers

The water and sewer project of Ta'izz City has noticeably advanced since the plan fulfilled the water needs of the residents of the city and its neighborhoods to a large degree by supplying on the average 18,000 cubic meters a day. The General Organization for Water and Sewers has major projects that will be carried out during 1986-87.

Loan Facilitation for Farmers

The Ta'izz branch of the Agricultural Loan Bank helps the farmers by giving them loans to carry out agricultural projects and to develop and raise livestock and poultry. Livestock loans for 1985 totaled 1,784,937 riyals and poultry loans totaled 2,265,739 riyals. The Ta'izz branch of the bank is backing 1.2 million hectares and the bank has a number of projects for the future.

Local Councils for Cooperative Development

Despite the short period in which the local councils for cooperative development were created, the officials of the council in Ta'izz are sponsoring important social activities and are working on planning and implementing development and service projects for the future. We became aware of this during our visit to Ta'izz Square where we saw lively and very happy children playing. The secretary general of the council, 'Abd-al-Fattah Jamal, said that the administrative body will implement several projects in the future, God permitting.

Until We Meet Again

In future issues, we will move with our dear readers to the historic city of al-Mukha and to al-Rahidah City as well to learn about their share in the accomplishments of the glorious September revolution. So until next time.

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BANGLADESH

BIG ARMS HAUL, MANY ARRESTS AT DHAKA UNIVERSITY

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 15 Oct 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Law enforcing agencies last night raided some of the residential halls of Dhaka University and arrested 152 persons including out siders and seized a huge quantity of arms and ammunition.

A high ranking police official told this correspondent at the Police Control Room that they started their raid on Jagannath Hall, Haji Mohsin Hall and Surja Sen Hall at midnight and continued through the small hours of yesterday and rounded up 90 outsiders and 62 students. He said they were involved in hijacking and bomb blasts creating a reign of terror around the university campus.

Most of the arrests were made from Jagannath Hall, the number being 94. The number of arrests from other halls were: Zahurul Haq Hall-27, Haji Mohsin Hall-19, Surja Sen Hall-9 and Kabi Jasimuddin Hall-3.

The police official handed over a list of seized items to this correspondent and said they were busy in completing formalities for producing the arrested before the court.

The arms included two country-made guns and one pipe gun; 116 rounds of ammunition and 300 hand bombs and crackers, some of those in the making stage. The ammunition included stem gun bullets 56 rounds, 22 bore pistol ammunition 22 rounds, shot gun cartridges-19 rounds, 303 rifle bullets-6 rounds, 25 bore pistol ammunition-4 rounds and pistol ammunition of other calibres-9 rounds.

Police said that they also recovered a huge quantity of chemicals used in making bombs. These included sulphur and potassium.

The other weapons recovered are: 211 daggers and knives, 33 ramdaos, 11 hockey sticks, 11 bamboo sticks and five iron rods. During the raid, police also recovered two stolen cassette recorders and three motorcycles. Police believe these motorcycles were being used for snatching away valuables from the pedestrians and hurling bombs.

Commenting on the police raid, a government spokesman told BSS that the sanctity of the university was continuously being violated by a section of so-called students and paid hoodlums in total disregard of the security of the students and even the members of the public.

The spokesman noted that the university halls had been turned into shelters for miscreants, improvised factory for making bombs and explosives and stores for unauthorised arms and ammunition to the utter dismay of the majority of students who wanted to pursue their studies.

The spokesman stressed the determination of the government to maintain sanctity of the highest seat of learning in the country at all costs and warned against spoiling the atmosphere conducive to education.

Meanwhile, the police action in the residential halls evoked bitter reactions from the students who termed the raid as an onslaught on the autonomous status of the university.

The students today brought out a procession, gheraoed the Vice-Chancellor of the university and compelled him to join the procession that paraded the campus roads. Later, they held a meeting in the Battala in front of the Arts building.

The Vice-Chancellor briefly addressed the students and said that the raid was conducted without his permission. He said he was no more able to ensure the security and well-being of the students on the campus or in the residential halls although it was his responsibility. He expressed his deep sorrow and concern over the incident and said he would discuss the issue at an emergency meeting of the syndicate to decide what could be done about it.

The students placed a five-point demand before the Vice-Chancellor that called for adequate compensation to the affected students narrating the whole incident to the press, immediate release of all the arrested persons and en masse resigna-

tion of the Vice-Chancellor and other high officials of the university administration.

Meanwhile, a number of political and students organisations issued statements criticising the police raid.

The political parties include BNP, Bangladesher Workers Party, Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (two factions) and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Inu). The students organisations include Kendriya Chhatra Sangram Parishad, Bangladesh Chhatra League Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Islami Chhatra Shibir, Bangladesh Chhatra Union Biplo Chhatra Moitri, Jatiya Chhatra League and Ganotantrik Chhatra Union.

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INDIA

PAPERS COMMENT ON VISIT OF U.S. DEFENSE SECRETARY

Compared With Kapitsa Visit

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 17 Oct 86 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

It would be an exaggeration to say that Delhi is equidistant from Moscow and Washington; we are definitely far closer to our neighbouring superpower than to the one across many oceans. But it is equally true that our relations with Moscow are not, and never have been, at the expense of Washington. India's independence in foreign policy is recognised and respected by both the superpowers: it is not a recognition which has come easily or should be taken lightly. Evidence of our special status in an increasingly bipolar world was visible once again in two high level visits to Delhi, one from Washington and the other from Moscow. Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US defence secretary, is one of those American politicians who keep a very careful eye on their government waiting for any signs of deviation from the rightwing ideology which propelled Mr Ronald Reagan to power six years ago. When for instance Mr Reagan agreed to go to Reykjavik on Mr Gorbachyov's suggestion, Mr Weinberger immediately issued a statement expressing his disapproval. Mr Weinberger, in other words, is far more loyal to his rightwing constituency in the US than to his President. It is not therefore that Mr Weinberger has any particular preference for Pakistan over India, but he belongs to that school which sees an army-controlled rightwing Pakistan as a better friend in the great war against the Soviet Union than a democratic India which signs friendship treaties with the evil empire. The Soviet intervention in Afghanistan rejuvenated this school just when events seemed to have made them passe. When Mr Rajiv Gandhi visited the United States last year, it was this lobby in the US administration which reacted strongly against the idea of transferring the high technology of a super-computer to India—the argument was that handing India the technology was the same as passing it to the Soviets, and so on and so forth. But our credibility was high enough to weather this campaign, and it is a happy development that Mr Weinberger himself has finalised (barring, as they say, dotting the i's) the transfer of this high technology to us. This will give a special strength to the growing warmth in Indo-American relations, and it is the kind of warmth which we needed after the long frost.

A little after Mr Weinberger's departure, Mr M.S. Kapitsa has come to visit us, both to brief Delhi on the failure at Reykjavik and to continue discussions over the coming visit of Mr Gorbachyov to India. Mr Kapitsa, the ranking specialist in Moscow on India and China, needs no introductions on the subcontinent, and his visit is a measure of the importance that Moscow attaches to its relations with Delhi. Mr Gorbachyov wants his forthcoming visit to be an important step forward in the friendship between the two nations, and has been sending every signal possible to suggest this. For instance, the manner in which he welcomed our new ambassador to Moscow, Mr T.N. Kaul, was quite unprecedented. Nonalignment, therefore, has its rewards, no matter what the cynics might say. It is possible to build bridges in both directions, even though the two bridges may not quite be of equal strength. The vital point is not that we have always maintained as much, but that the state department and the defence department in Washington are also ready to accept our rationale. Relations with the United States would have improved even more were it not for the fact that Pakistan continues its policy of subversion. Islamabad has stepped up its direct and indirect support to the secessionists in Punjab in the full knowledge that this cannot but evoke an angry response from Delhi—and Washington would have to tolerate this as the price of Pakistan's willingness to confront the Soviets on the Afghanistan border. And for the Reagan administration, no price is too high for support to its Afghan policy. The fact that the transfer of high technology has survived such treacherous impediments makes it doubly welcome. In a year when good news has come, if at all, in sparse trickles, this agreement must get the status of a highlight.

Opportunities of Visit Missed

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 25 Oct 86 p 8

[Article by Harish Khare]

[Text]

IN more than one way the first ever visit by the American defence secretary to India was rendered a non-event before Mr. Caspar Weinberger left Washington when Mr. Richard Armitage, assistant secretary of defence for international security affairs, went out of his way to tell the press in the American capital that President Reagan was most likely to certify that Pakistan was not assembling a nuclear weapon. It was a rather tactless way of signalling that Washington was not prepared to accept Mr. Shiv Shanker's invitation last month to take "a fresh look at policy parameters in the south Asia region."

In the event Weinberger's visit turned out to be a rather unusual diplomatic exercise. The Prime

Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi left the country for a ceremonial tour while the defence secretary was still here; the then foreign minister, Mr. Shiv Shanker, thought it advisable to tag along with the Prime Minister instead of discussing matters of high policy with the visiting American. (Maybe it was an indication of the seriousness Mr. Shiv Shanker attaches to his ministerial assignment; maybe it is an indication that in New Delhi's current thinking there is a distinction between acquisition of defence-related technology and foreign policy requirements). However if we keep in mind that Mr. Weinberger was preceded by as many as eighteen U.S. defence delegations, it is only fair to assume that the U.S. defence secretary was here not as a super salesman but as

a seniormost policy-maker, interested in talking matters of strategic importance.

Out Of Talks

On the last day the Weinberger visit assumed a lugubrious dimension when the secretary chose to keep himself out of negotiations. And to the extent no general security organisation and military information agreement was signed, as the Americans have been insisting, it is difficult to see how an inference can be made; Mr. Arun Singh will like us to make that substantial agreement has been reached between the two countries on issues related to transfer of defence technology.

The challenge before our foreign

policy establishment is to put diplomacy to creative uses. To minimise the possibility of our getting sucked into a high technology-oriented weapons quagmire and, in the short run, to secure American acquiescence for a south Asian scenario that would redress the ever-increasing problem of external support for secessionist movements in this region. There is nothing to indicate that our policy-makers even appreciated the opportunities that Mr. Weinberger's visit offered.

It was Henry Kissinger who once remarked that the art of diplomacy is not to outsmart the other side but to convince it either of common interest or the penalty if an impasse continues. Let us examine whether the Indian side managed to convince the Americans of common interest or threatened them with penalties, if any.

Far too long we in this country have lived with a rather strange assumption that because of the mere fact of both India and the U.S. having democratic forms of governance is sufficient to produce *ipso facto* a convergence of strategic interests between Washington and New Delhi. And what is more in our usual self-serving way we have believed that it was for the U.S. to take cognizance of Indian democracy while we, on our part, would apply standards of realpolitik towards the U.S., we devised the strategy of non-alignment which though geopolitically desirable nevertheless equated the Soviet Union and the U.S. morally and ideologically. The "two largest democracies" syndrome became most pronounced in our dealing with Pakistan; we were — and still are — indignant that the U.S. should prefer Pakistan, a self-styled dictatorship over India. Unfortunately, we have managed to raise this whine to the status of a policy.

Asian Strategy

Irrespective of the presence in the Weinberger entourage of people reported to be tilting towards India, the secretary is not exactly known for any mushy sentimentality; he is as classic a cold war hardliner as one could get in Washington. It must only have been sophomoric self-assurance and cleverness much

valued in New Delhi these days that would have led to a belief that Mr. Weinberger could be easily persuaded to abandon an Asian strategy that he has so assiduously put together for the last six years. And this strategy is very simple.

The Reagan administration is fully convinced that the Soviet Union is hopelessly over-extended in Afghanistan, and that there is the necessary domestic mandate and will to turn Afghanistan into Moscow's Vietnam. And in that endeavour the policy-makers in Pakistan have very shrewdly and eagerly enlisted themselves. In fact in Afghanistan's misery Islamabad has found a gold mine. So that stance of present American involvement in Pakistan has a much wider dimension.

There is yet another dimension to the current American approach to Pakistan. Washington's policy making apparatus at the middle and senior level is staked when people baptised in the Kissinger doctrine that the diplomacy of a great power ought to be characterised by steadfastness and reliability; that a great power does not enhance its power by walking out on its friends. This principle is particularly relevant to American stance in south Asia because the national security establishment in Washington still bristles at the charge that the U.S. did not come to Pakistan's help when that country was being dismembered by India in 1971. Therefore it should be kept in mind that there are very severe and compelling limits to what the U.S. can make Pakistan to do or not to do with respect to India.

It is not out of place to note that in the recent months our leaders have needlessly thrown away opportunities to create an impression of diplomatic seriousness. For example, the Prime Minister has indicated that he expected President Reagan to put pressure on Islamabad to make a clean breast of all the facts and security lapses in the recent hijack tragedy at Karachi airport. To insist that Islamabad should advertise its security failure while we at home resort to all kinds of legal short cuts to deprive our own public of any knowledge about as significant an event as assassination

of Indira Gandhi. (Above all it will be short-sighted to overlook lessons of recent history. Even at the height of Chinese incursions in 1962, American and British diplomacy in the sub-continent conducted by Duncan Sandys and Dean Rusk was geared to extract changes in Indian policy that would surely have been perceived as concessions made under duress.

As long as the turmoil in Punjab remains politically useful to its leadership, Pakistan can be counted upon to want to play a destabilising role. Our diplomacy should have been so conducted as to convince Washington that Pakistan is jeopardising a major aim of American policy in the region, i.e., political stability in south Asia. We have not had much success on that count; consequently Washington continues to concede Pakistan's claim both as an ally and a lackey vis-a-vis India.

Intrinsic Problem

The intrinsic problem of Indo-American relations is that it is a relationship among unequals; India has no carrots and sticks; whereas Washington may not have any stick but it certainly has more carrots which New Delhi bunnies would like munch on. The Rajiv Gandhi government has no mandate to make this country into a vassal state of the U.S. The only other thing India can do is to throw open its economy to American investors and creditors. But that is not all that easy and painless option; nor does Mr. Gandhi have the domestic support to take that decisive plunge to the right. It would help our policy-makers to remember that in international diplomacy no nation ever gets anything free of cost. American offer of defence-technology is not as strictly a commercial proposition as is being made out in New Delhi.

So after Mr. Weinberger's departure two things are quite clear: 1) India has failed to make the United States change either its perception or policies towards south Asia; 2) all that the U.S. is doing or is willing to do is to enable India to join the arms race which it has so deliberately started in south Asia. In other words, it is an invitation to bleed ourselves to death.

INDIA

ECONOMIC OUTCOME OF GANDHI AUSTRALIA VISIT NOTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Oct 86 p 9

[Article by Manoj Joshi]

[Text]

AUCKLAND, Oct. 16.—The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and his Australian counterpart, Mr. Robert Hawke, today participated in a ceremony where an agreement to set up a new joint business council was initialled. The council will comprise primarily businessmen from both the countries. Mr. Suley, Chairman, Assocham, signed the agreement on behalf of the Indian side.

Earlier, the Prime Minister told a meeting of the Australian economic policy council that no country could solve its economic problems without regard to developments in the world economy. "Movements in world trade, international exchange rates and international financial markets all have powerful effects on our domestic economies, whether rich or poor."

The Prime Minister outlined the Indian strategy of planned development noting that the results were evident in India today. An aspect of the strategy was the fact that "our development has been achieved almost entirely through our own efforts." He noted, however, that certain shortcomings were evident in some sectors. In industry controls were vulgarised into "excessively directed regulations which are dilatory and inefficient" and parts of the sector had received too much protection resulting in high production costs. Others had got "locked into" inefficient technologies.

Freedom of world markets

Indian industry, the Prime Minister said, had reached a watershed. It would have to become internationally competitive, achieve lower costs of production and better quality control. Besides, technology would have to be upgraded. Mr. Gandhi outlined the measures the Government was taking to tackle these problems. Fi-

cal reforms to stimulate and channel investment and lower tax rates to promote savings and investment were two of the measures noted to pay for the imports necessitated by the drive for industrial modernisation. India was making a strong effort to increase its exports. The Prime Minister called for measures to ensure the freedom of world markets and for a rolling back of barriers erected in contravention of GATT.

The Prime Minister said he would take up an offer of the New South Wales Government for a State or regional link with India and observed that Maharashtra seemed to be the obvious choice for such an arrangement with the premier Australian State.

Briefing newsmen on the outcome of the economic talks an official spokesman said that the Indian side had told its Australian counterpart that India would be interested in the possible import of lead and steel billets, diamonds and some non-ferrous metals. It also referred to the changes in the Australian general scheme of preferences that had had the effect of reducing Indian market access in handloom and some handmade leather products.

Post-harvest technology

There was an interesting presentation by Prof. A. Shand of the Australian National University with regard to two agro-industrial projects of particular interest to India. One related to the Australian achievements in post-harvest technology for mangoes and lichies. These highly perishable produce have had their post-harvest life extended from 10 days to one month in the case of the mango.

The other project has resulted in the reduction of the sowing to harvesting cycle of the pigeon-pea (arhar) an important dal which the Australians say can now be grown in rotation with wheat. The Australian scientists are

already in touch with the Directorate of Pulse Research at Kanpur but the Prime Minister has decided that the Agricultural Production Export Development Agency would be the nodal agency to liaise with its Australian counterpart in the project.

The Australian team said it was interested in several projects and joint ventures in India. One was for a major contract for fibre-optic cable links between Delhi and Bombay. A consortium led by the Australian Telecom has put itself forward as a major world leader in this area. There is some interest in building fishing vessels and helping develop fisheries to Tamil Nadu and Orissa. In the rail sector, the liaison indicated some interest in the supply of advanced foundry technology for railway steel and high-speed bogies.

Coal to Tuticorin plant

In the power generation sector, the Australians have indicated an interest in helping build and supplying coal to the thermal power plant at Tuticorin. The issue of supplying coal and building the plant are however separate. This coal supply may be linked to a barter deal involving the export of mineral sands from India. Some interest was indicated in joint ventures for the manufacture of metallurgical and mining equipment and new types of insulation pads.

The major areas of cooperation are likely to be electronic. However, in the mining and minerals sector the Australians expressed an interest in projects related to copper, coal, the further development of the Bailadila iron ore project in Bastar district in M.P. and a tungsten project in Rajasthan.

A presentation by Dr. Webb of the Australian Chamber of Commerce indicated that market openings for India in Australia could also be found in areas like reciprocal equity participation and in minerals and mining that are re-

quired for "sophisticated" industries like zirconium and tungsten. Though only three per cent of current Indian exports are machine tools and engineering equipment, he indicated that prospects for greater machine tool export, as well as that for electric motors, parts and components of mining equipment existed.

An important feature of the discussions was the presentation of the Australian world view with regard to its economic relations. According to Indian sources, this perspective seems to correspond greatly with the Indian one. This is because the country is basically a commodity exporter. The breakdown of its exports is agriculture 40 per cent, minerals 40 per cent and manufactured goods 20 per cent. There is some bitterness on the part of Australia at the approach of the strong trading nations like West Germany and Japan.

One Australian commented: the industrial world has cracked its problem of inflation by cracking the terms of trade between industrial and primary products. "Their policy was viewed as resulting in a massive transfer of wealth from the developing to the developed nations." The Australian estimate is that the price of agricultural goods has in real terms gone down faster than that of crude oil in recent years.

Countries like Australia, its economic leaders lamented, have had to face such great difficulties on this score that they had been compelled to curtail growth and cut wages.

There was therefore need to take measures to keep trade open and persuade international bodies like the IMF to promote and protect the real interest of the developing and some developed countries who were primary producers. In fact there have been suggestions on the Australian side that the Hawke Government is contemplating measures to loosen up its trade regulations.

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CSO: 4600/1165

INDIA

PRO-KHALISTANIS ABROAD ENCOURAGE PUNJAB TERRORISTS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11 Oct 86 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, October 10
(PTI).

PRO-Khalistani elements abroad, have been desperately trying to finance and encourage terrorists in Punjab with a view to saving their separatist movement from being isolated, according to intelligence reports received here.

Separatist groups abroad, particularly in the U.K., Canada, the United States and Australia, have been sending huge funds through clandestine means and encouraging terrorists through inflammatory literature, the reports said.

The groups involved in this move are mainly the ISYF, Babbar Khalsa, Damdami Taksal, the Khalistan National Organisation, Dal Khalsa and World Sikh Organisation.

Recently an inflammatory booklet captioned "External and internal threats to Sikhism", written by someone called Dr. S. S. Dharam and published from Arlington Heights, has been given wide publicity.

ARMS, FUNDS GIVEN

It is also assessed that terrorists in Punjab have already been extended foreign financial help of Rs. 1 crore and

supplied a large number of firearms including revolvers, pistols, rifles, stenguns and other automatic weapons, intelligence sources said.

Concerned over the massive assistance extended to the terrorists, India is keeping constant touch with the governments of those countries where separatist plans are hatched. Only Canada has provided an appreciable response in this direction, the sources said.

Intelligence agencies noticed that foreign assistance was intensified whenever there was a decline in terrorist activities.

Foreign assistance mainly included training and supply of arms by Pakistan and active financial and support by pro-extremist elements in the U.K., the U.S., Canada and Australia.

According to the intelligence agencies, smugglers have been helping terrorists in crossing over to Pakistan and establishing links with the Pakistan Army and intelligence officers. These smugglers have also been acting as couriers for funds and messages.

It has also come to the notice of the intelligence agencies that of late serious differences have cropped up among leaders of Sikh organisations abroad, particularly on the issues of leadership

and handling of the funds of the organisations.

Recently sharp differences emerged between Mr. Gurmej Singh Gill, a follower of the Khalistan propagator Mr. Jagjit Singh Chauhan, and the U.K. branch leader of the Babbar Khalsa, and ISYF leaders resulting in a number of skirmishes in gurdwaras in the U.K., the sources said.

The Babbar Khalsa, considered till recently a front organisation of the Khalistan National Organisation (KNO), has now started functioning as an independent body, the sources said.

Similarly the Damdami Taksal, which was earlier a militant wing of the ISYF, has now become an independent fundamentalist religious group.

The KNO formed by Mr. Jagjit Singh Chauhan is dwindling. Till 1984 Mr. Chauhan was considered the sole leader of the separatist movement, but now he has been eclipsed following the emergence of the new groups.

According to the intelligence agencies, about 95 per cent Sikhs based abroad are against the separatist movement. They want to live in peace and believe that the main aim of the separatists is to dominate religious politics and capture gurdwaras.

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CSO: 5650/0037

INDIA

LOK DAL SPLITS, REBELS FORM PANEL

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Oct 86 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, October 18.

THE imminent split in the Lok Dal finally materialised today when about 5,000 workers decided in a convention here to break away from the party.

A 15-member committee was formed to decide about the future of the breakaway group.

Lok Dal watchers feel that the convention has paved the way for the rebel faction to join the Janata Party. Without making any direct reference to this aspect, the political resolution adopted unanimously at the convention spoke of creating a "national alternative" to the ruling Congress Party.

The Janata Party chief, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, and some other leaders have already issued an open invitation to the dissidents to join the party.

The Lok Dal rebels' meet inaugurated by Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, former general secretary, and presided over by Dr. Swarup Singh, former vice-chancellor of Delhi University and a close relation of the ailing president, Mr. Charan Singh, strongly criticised the mode of functioning of the party. Democratic norms have been given a go-by, and each state unit was being governed now by a "subedar", it said.

Speakers at the convention, while affirming their faith in the policies of Mr. Charan Singh, came down heavily upon the present leadership represented by Mr. Devi Lal, Mr. Karpoori Thakur, Mr. Mulayam Singh

Yadav, Mr. Ajit Singh and Mr. H. N. Bahuguna. They accused them of imposing a dictatorial rule over the party, taking undue advantage of Mr. Charan Singh's sickness.

The resolution described as unconstitutional the manner in which Mr. Bahuguna was made acting president. "The party has been converted into an organisation hostile to Harijans, Adivasis, minorities and weaker sections of society." It held the expulsion of party leaders from U.P., Bihar and Haryana illegal.

The committee to decide about the future course of action include Dr. Swaroop Singh (convener), Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, Mr. Rajinder Singh, former chief of the Lok Dal's U.P. unit, Dr. Bhim Singh Dahiya, former general secretary of the Haryana unit, Mr. Rameshwar Singh, the party's former vice-president, Mr. Ramjiwan Singh, former chief of the Bihar unit, Mr. Hargovind Verma, chief of the U.P. kisan sammelan, Mr. Rajan James, former general secretary of the Yuva Lok Dal, and Mr. Ramesh Sharma, general secretary of the Maharashtra unit.

/9274
CSO: 4600/1164

IRAN

REFINERY BIDS; SOVIET TECHNICIANS RETURN; OTHER ACTIVITIES

Bandar Abbas Refinery

London MEED/THE MIDDLE EAST'S BUSINESS WEEKLY in English 18-24 Oct 86 p 14

[Text]

International companies that bid in July for a turnkey contract to build a 220,000-barrel-a-day (b/d) oil refinery complex at Bandar Abbas have been asked to place offers for a unified scheme. Tender deadline for the **National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)** project is 31 October, but it may be put back to mid-November.

The complex could cost up to \$1,500 million, more than originally reported (MEED 26:7:86). The contract calls for a 200,000-ton-a-year lube oil plant and a costly hydrocracker for middle distillates; the earlier bids, submitted on 20 July, were placed separately for the various units.

Companies that are submitting revised offers include two Italo-Japanese consortia – one of **Technipetrol** and **JGC Corporation**, and the other of **Snamprogetti** and **Chiyoda Chemical Engineering Construction Company**. Romanian and Yugoslav firms may also place bids. Payment is to be made in oil.

The site of the complex, at Bandar Abbas, would put the refinery out of the range of Iraqi aircraft. Crude supplies would have to be brought in by tanker from the main Kharg island export terminal.

There had been speculation that financial restrictions would force NIOC to postpone the project; the renewed invitation indicates the refinery still has priority. Construction will take about three years.

The Bandar Abbas scheme – with another planned refinery at Arak – would raise total refining capacity to well above 1.1 million b/d. Present capacity of nearly 700,000 b/d may have been reduced by 100,000 b/d in recent months, following Iraqi air attacks against refineries at Tehran, Isfahan, Tabriz and Shiraz. The

government recently introduced petrol rationing in an effort to build up strategic reserves and – possibly – to reduce foreign exchange expenditure on imported refined products.

U.S. Duties Hit Pistachio Growers

London MEED/THE MIDDLE EAST'S BUSINESS WEEKLY in English 18-24 Oct 86 p 14

[Text]

The US Commerce Department has formally imposed a binding 317.89 per cent countervailing duty on imports of Iranian roasted in-shell pistachios – effectively ending a \$4.1 million a year market for the growers. The measure follows the lower duties imposed earlier in 1986 on raw in-shell pistachios (MEED 12-7-86). Californian pistachio growers demanded the duties because of what they allege is unfair competition from Iranian producers.

The latest tariff, which is based on the Commerce Department's estimate of the subsidy entailed in Iranian exports to the US, is regarded as high by most observers. This may well be due to what US officials have described as lack of response to a questionnaire the department sent to Iranian pistachio growers and the authorities in Tehran.

In 1986, Iran earned \$1 million from roasted and \$38.9 million from raw in-shell pistachio sales to the US. In future, US importers will have to lodge cash deposits equivalent to 185.04 per cent of the value of the nuts if they arrive raw, and to 317.89 per cent if they arrive roasted.

The duties will affect Iran's non-oil exports and its overall trade with the US. This has been growing in 1986: exports in January-August reached \$475.7 million, against \$295.0 million in the corresponding period of 1985. But the last four months of 1985 saw a sudden surge in US purchases of Iranian oil, boosting overall sales for the year to \$762.7 million. US exports to Iran are continuing to decline: in the first eight months of 1986 they totalled only \$23.4 million, less than half the \$55.6 million recorded in January-August 1985, and equivalent to less than two months' average sales for 1984.

Soviet Technicians To Return

London MEED/THE MIDDLE EAST'S BUSINESS WEEKLY in English 18-24 Oct 86 p 14

[Text]

Soviet technicians, withdrawn in 1985 after an escalation in Iraqi air raids, will soon return to resume work, Soviet President Gromyko is quoted as saying. The Soviet Union wants to "consolidate economic co-operation between the two countries." Gromyko told the new Iranian ambassador, Nassar Heirani Nobari, according to the state radio.

The return of Soviet technicians to the site of power stations and a steel mill---as well as other industrial schemes---has been expected, following recent moves by both countries to improve relations (MEED 30:8:86). Talks have also been held on co-operating in hydrocarbons exploration in Iran, as well as resuming gas supplies to the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union, which has a defence treaty with Iraq, has called on the two sides to negotiate an end to the war. In his meeting with Gromyko, Heirani Nobari read a message from President Khamenei and explained Iran's policy "on the necessity of the downfall of (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussain's regime," and its views on the Palestinian problem and Afghanistan, the radio said.

Prime Minister Hossain Moussavi visited East Germany and Hungary in mid-October—the first trip to Europe by an Iranian premier since the 1979 revolution. Moussavi praised Moscow's recent decision to withdraw 8,000 troops from Afghanistan (MEED 11:10:86, Afghanistan). In response to an East German appeal for an end to the Gulf war, he said there could be no peace "without punishment of the aggressor."

Following talks with East German head of state Erich Honecker and Prime Minister Willi Stoph, Moussavi said accords had been reached on economic co-operation. Iranian oil supplies may increase. Two-way trade totals about \$200 million annually.

More Reportage

London MEED/THE MIDDLE EAST'S BUSINESS WEEKLY in English 18-24 Oct 86 pp 14-15

[Text]

● Bid deadline for the 1,000-MW combined-cycle Guilan power station has been extended to 18 November and may be put back by another month, the companies preparing tender

documents say. The original closing date was 16 September (MEED 9.8.86).

● The Singapore salvage company **Semco** is reported to be negotiating a contract with the **National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC)** for exclusive berthing and fire-fighting services in the Gulf. A Dutch salvage firm operating in the area says it understands talks are taking place, but details are not available. A verbal agreement may already have been reached by Semco in talks in Tehran, according to the London daily *Lloyd's List*. The contract would be for six months and the tugs would be based at Kharg island, the main oil exporting terminal. Salvage tugs now operate on an open tendering system.

The main firms involved are **Smit Tak International** and **Wijsmuller**, both of the Netherlands. Smit has nine tugs in the area and 50 per cent of its salvage business depends on work with war-damaged vessels. The salvage companies have to obtain permission every time one of their vessels enters Iranian waters. Semco was set up in April 1986 as a joint venture between **Sembawang Towing**, part of the **Sembawang Shipyard** group, and **Temasek Holdings**, the investment arm of the Singapore government. The contract would only apply to Iranian-controlled vessels.

● West Germany's **Blohm & Voss** has started to recruit Iranian staff for work at the planned Bandar Abbas shipyard complex.

● Pakistan and Iran are to set up joint ventures for industrial schemes to be located in both countries and elsewhere, says Pakistan's Finance Minister Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattoo. Other countries that could be involved include Turkey, Malaysia and Indonesia. Planned schemes are works to produce cement, construction machinery and railway equipment, and sugar refineries. An Iranian team is to visit Islamabad in December to finalise the arrangement, Wattoo added.

● The US-Iran claims tribunal at The Hague has approved more than \$584 million in payments to the US and Iran from an escrow account set up by Iran as part of the January 1981 hostage agreement. The amount paid out by 30 September raises the previous total, at 30 June, by \$38 million (MEED 19.7.86). Nearly all the payments were made to US claimants. \$394

million worth of settlements were reached in negotiations outside the tribunal.

● A serum production plant in Tehran — the country's second — is to start up by March 1987, the Health Ministry says. The factory, which will produce 10 million doses of serum a year, is one of seven pharmaceuticals plants being established. Eighty-five per cent of medicines will be produced locally within six years, the ministry adds.

● Fresh and dried fruit and vegetables worth \$1.3 million were exported to Gulf states in the first six months of the Iranian year started 21 March.

● The southern Iraqi port of Fao, captured in February, has been linked to the national power grid, according to the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA). About 110 kilometres of secondary lines were installed to make the connection.

● An experimental facsimile communications system is planned between Tehran, Mashad and Ahwaz, the Posts, Telephones & Telegraphs Ministry says.

● West Germany's **Thyssen Rheinstahl Technik (TRT)** misappropriated funds from the **National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)** in 1978, according to allegations made by the Hamburg weekly *Der Spiegel*. TRT — which was working on the Isfahan oil refinery in joint venture with **Mannesmann**, also of West Germany, and the US' **Fluor Corporation** — denies the use of special bank accounts led to any financial loss for NIOC. On the contrary, the company says, NIOC still owes large sums to the joint venture.

● Jon Patti, a US citizen travelling on an Italian passport, has told a press conference in Tehran he was spying for the CIA at the time of his June arrest by Iranian security agents (MEED 16.8.86). Patti was working in Iran as a telecommunications adviser for the US' **Cosmos Engineering**. He was arrested after an Iraqi air raid that damaged the Assadabad earth satellite station.

● A Thai delegation led by Commerce Minister Surat Osathanukroh visited Tehran in mid-October. Among the topics discussed were supplies of Thai rice and Iranian crude oil. Trade between the two countries is estimated at \$240 million a year.

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CSO: 4600/53

IRAN

RADICALS THOUGHT TO BE INVOLVED IN DIPLOMATIC INCIDENTS

London MEED/THE MIDDLE EAST'S BUSINESS WEEKLY in English 11-17 Oct 86 p 17

[Article by Vahé Petrossian]

[Text]

TWO incidents involving foreign diplomats have raised fears of an upsurge in radical sentiment. A Syrian diplomat was kidnapped by unknown gunmen for a few hours on 2 October; six days later, the West German embassy was besieged by several hundred demonstrators who tried to break into the building.

The short-lived kidnap of Syria's acting charge d'affaires Ayad al-Mahmoud is still unexplained by either Iran or Syria. Tehran radio said armed men fired shots as they snatched Al-Mahmoud on his way home from the embassy and bundled him into an ambulance. He was freed the following morning. There was no official explanation of who the kidnappers were, but Tehran radio blamed the CIA for the "terrorist act," and said it was aimed at damaging "the good relations between Iran and progressive Arab states." Syria is Iran's main Arab ally.

On 8 October, several hundred demonstrators stormed into the grounds of the West German embassy in Tehran and attempted to break down the doors; security guards fired tear gas to repel the protesters. The crowd left after holding prayers in the embassy courtyard and painting slogans criticising West Germany for a recent incident at the Frankfurt book fair.

Iran has lodged an official protest about the Frankfurt incident, alleging that German police failed to intervene to help officials at the Iranian stand who were being attacked by dissident Iranians running a rival stall outside the fair. The police closed down both stands. The local press has strongly criticised West Germany.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry in Tehran has distanced itself from the attack on the embassy—an incident that revived memories of the November 1979 seizure of the US embassy by Tehran university students—and prom-

ised an investigation. At the German embassy siege, the crowd handed out leaflets signed by "Tehran University Hezbollah Students," demanding "a more resolute approach to the German government... a remnant of the Hitlerite fascists which is an accomplice of the world-grabbing America in all its global crimes."

It appears unlikely the authorities would allow a repeat of the US embassy crisis. But the incident comes amid radical allegations that the government is too accommodating in its dealings with other countries, and amid preparations for an escalation in the Gulf war.

More puzzling is the kidnap of the Syrian diplomat. The kidnappers' boldness, the use of an ambulance and the victim's early release would seem to indicate that they were not anti-government guerrillas. The authorities themselves certainly have no wish to harm relations with Syria. Speculation has thus centred on the probability that the kidnappers belong to a radical group within, or on the margins of, the establishment.

What their aim might have been is far from clear. Some radical religious groups view Syria's secular Baath party as little better than its counterpart in Iraq. Tehran's alliance of convenience with Damascus against Baghdad has been tolerated by the radicals, but the recent abortive moves by Syria and Iraq to improve their relations have revived Iranian suspicions. Syria's failure to pay for Iranian crude oil supplies has not helped matters.

Some observers speculate that the kidnapping may have been an attempt to arrest Al-Mahmoud for suspected spying. This would explain the manner of his "arrest" and quick release. But if the incident was the work of radicals, it would be a source of serious worry to the government.

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CSO: 4600/53

IRAN

ACCOUNT SURPLUS; OIL RATIONING, OTHER ACTIVITIES REPORTED

London MEED/THE MIDDLE EAST'S BUSINESS WEEKLY in English 11-17 Oct 86 pp 16-17

[Text]

A current account surplus of \$1,500 million was registered in the year ended 20 March 1986, despite a sharp reduction in oil income. Bank Markazi (central bank) deputy governor Javad Vahaji says. Speaking at the recent IMF/World Bank annual meeting in Washington, Vahaji said the surplus was achieved by "pursuing strong adjustment policies, despite the hardships that they have entailed."

Vahaji warned international bankers and financial advisers that low oil prices created "a totally distorted price structure" and would harm the world economy — in particular, the economies of "the more vulnerable countries among us." Developing countries' terms of trade were now the worst in 20 years, he added. Moreover, foreign exchange markets had been turned into "a monstrous engine of universal financial instability" (see page 39),

The government has reimposed petrol rationing to safeguard strategic reserves in anticipation of intensified Iraqi air attacks against refineries and oil installations. Petrol was rationed at the start of the Gulf war in September 1980, but all restrictions were lifted after two years.

Coming into force on 3 October, the

rationing applies only to private cars, for which limits of 40-60 litres a month have been set. The scheme will cut petrol consumption by about one-quarter, to 15 million-16 million litres a day. Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said on 2 October.

Aqazadeh said the measure was temporary, and was put into effect "in view of the need for economising and safeguarding the strategic reserves." Elaborating the next day, majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani said the rationing would ensure sufficient fuel reserves: even if Iraqi aircraft succeeded in hitting all the country's refineries, "the fighting capacity of the Islamic Republic" would not be affected.

Iran has announced plans for a big military offensive against Iraq by spring 1987. In turn, Baghdad has intensified attacks against Iran's oil facilities — including the southern fields, the Kharg island export terminal and the 85,000-barrel-a-day (b/d) Tabriz refinery. There are unconfirmed reports of a drop in refinery output; some Gulf reports also say Kharg may have been put out of action by the latest Iraqi raids (see Regional Focus).

Western estimates put Iran's September oil exports at well below 1 million b/d. However, a senior Iranian delegate to OPEC's recent Geneva conference said exports for the month averaged just under 1.5 million b/d.

**/9274
CSO: 4600/53**

PAKISTAN

CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER INDIAN MILITARY EXERCISES

Karachi JANG in Urdu 10 Oct 86 p 3

[Editorial: "Indian Military Exercises"]

[Text] According to our New Delhi correspondent, India will start the biggest military exercise in its history on the India-Pakistan border at the end of this year. Referring to a report published in an Indian Journal, our correspondent adds that these exercises will include the whole Western Command of the Indian Army and will utilize ultramodern cannons and tanks. Real ammunition will be used in these exercises.

Military exercises are an important part of military training, and there should be little or no concern when a country carries out such exercises. Pakistan has never objected to such exercises by India before. The reported exercises, however, are being carried out for a special reason: supporters of a strong policy against Pakistan in India's Foreign Ministry want to let us know that India will not tolerate Pakistan's "aggressive activities." The report declares that Pakistan has accelerated its efforts to make nuclear weapons despite India's protest, increased the number of soldiers on the India-Pakistan border, trained Sikh terrorists, showed carelessness in the Pan American airplane hijacking incident, and has instigated talk of Kashmir independence. The report also says that even though Rajiv Gandhi believes in peaceful means, he is tired of President's Zia's tactics. According to a senior officer in the Indian army, India is staging these exercises to show Pakistan that it cannot be pushed around. These facts make these exercises uncommon, and therefore a cause for concern.

This report attempts to imply that the main reason for these military exercises is Pakistan's offensive attitude. This is a baseless and wholly inappropriate accusation. Inflammatory propaganda against Pakistan has always been part of a regular program by India's Foreign Ministry. India has always tried to use propaganda to hide its illegal activities or to attack Pakistan. The world knows that India exploded an atomic bomb 12 years ago, and according to informed international sources, it is experimenting with nuclear missiles. Still, it talks negatively about Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program. India lies and tries to convince the world that Pakistan is making an atomic bomb. The funny thing is that whenever Pakistan proposes making South Asia and the Indian Ocean free of nuclear weapons, India opposes it vehemently.

The matter of weapons procurement is no less interesting. India obtains weapons from the USSR, the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Sweden, and many other countries. The accumulation of cannons, tanks, missiles, and planes prove India's craze for war. The Indian Air Force already possesses many dangerous aircraft such as the MIG-29 and the C-Harrier, and it is still trying to get more. More than 40 ordnance factories work round the clock making arms and ammunition. According to their licenses, they make foreign weapons, fighter planes, and missiles. The more progress India makes in the area of weapons, the more it speaks against Pakistan's defense needs. India has already become a military ally of the USSR, and it is busy flirting with the United States in order to obtain the latest defense technology. It has already signed several pacts with the United States.

India is trying to blame Pakistan for the Sikh affair. It is also accusing Pakistan in the plane hijacking and regarding the demands made by the Kahsmiri people for their rights. The words uttered by the senior military officer in the report in question are a challenge to the pride of any independent country. Still, our thoughtful foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has refused to react negatively. Instead, he has decided to try to remove India's misunderstandings at the 15 November SARAK meeting in Bangalore. We hope that India's rulers respect the Pakistani leaders' sincere efforts for peace.

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CSO: 4656/11

PAKISTAN

ALLEGED INDIAN EFFORTS TO CREATE ANARCHY IN SIND DISCUSSED

Karachi JANG (Magazine) in Urdu 15 Oct 86 p 6

[Analysis by Mukhtar Aqil: "Does India Intend To Play the 'Sind Card'?"]

[Text] How did the news of the murderous attack on Rajiv Gandhi reach Karachi, Hyderabad and other places in Pakistan a day before it actually happened? This mystery is gradually being solved. Our investigators have discovered that the rumors of an imminent attack on the prime minister of India had been spread by Indian agents in accordance with a prescribed plan. These agents had already planted this news report in Pakistani newspapers when Rajiv Gandhi was attacked during prayers at the tomb of Mahatma Gandhi. India has long been engaged in a propaganda campaign against Pakistan. Benazir Bhutto, the cochairman of the PPP, has shown concern about the situation and said that if Pakistan uses the "Sikh card," then India will not refrain from using the "Sind card." The Indian Government has accused Pakistan of instigating the Sikhs to create Khalistan and of training them to fight against their government. It is quite possible, Benazir Bhutto fears, that the Indian Government will try to use the "Sind card" against us. Experts on Pakistan-India relations think that India is trying to find an excuse for invading Pakistan. It cannot enter Pakistan through Punjab because of the Sikh problem. It cannot come from the north, as Kashmir is already a "hot spot" for India. That is why it has limited itself to clashes around the Sia-cheng Glacier. Sind is the only province through which India can hope to attack Pakistan. Unfortunately for Pakistan, that province is at present a center of turmoil caused by clashes between people of different linguistic and social groups. What makes things worse is the question of law and order. There are said to be more than 5,000 dacoits and other antisocial elements hiding in the jungles of Sind, including political dissidents who are against the present regime. Their rebellious behavior has reached such a pitch that Prime Minister Junejo and Chief Minister Sayed Ghaus Ali Shah had to set up a camp in the district of Sanghar in order to stamp out their rebellion. During this operation not only S.S.G. commandos but also military equipment and personnel were used.

Our investigators suspect that Indian agents are involved in all these subversive activities. They have been giving money and ammunition to the antigovernment activities and helping them directly or indirectly. One investigator declares that Indian agents even tried to use the 14 August agitation of the MRD and other opposition parties for their own purposes.

They broke up railway tracks, destroyed trains, banks and telephone exchanges. No political party had any reason to destroy the canals and important installations of the province. It was all the work of the secret hand of a foreign power. The purpose was to make the Sind government so powerless that India could attack the province at will, or at least draw Pakistan's attention away from the north to its southeast border. Our army, however, managed to control matters before the situation deteriorated. What happened on 14 August worried even the MRD. That is why it stopped in its tracks. It was afraid that its agitation for democracy would be used by antinational elements for nefarious purposes.

It is reported that a few months ago even the Sukkar jail was broken into according to a definite plan. The activists wanted to use the freed criminals for their own ends. There is suspicion regarding an Indian envoy, who was staying in a hotel across from the Hyderabad jail. He met with an important personage from Sind University among others. The important personage who met the Indian envoy has been given a show-cause notice by the vice chancellor. Two weeks after the visit of the Indian envoy, a plot was hatched to break into the Hyderabad jail, just as the Sukkar jail had been broken into previously. This is how it was planned. Two groups of convicts staged a fight and drew the administrators to their part of the jail. This left convicts on death row free to break out of their cells. Members of the frontier constabulary spotted them, and so these criminals could not make their escape. We have even received reports of an Indian envoy meeting with dacoits in the jungle near Hyderabad outside the township of Manyari. The activists cannot yet create strong antinational agitation or an anti-Pakistan campaign because the common people are against them. That is why, say experts on Pakistan-India relations, the farce of an attack on Rajiv Gandhi's life was staged. The rumor of this attack was spread by Indian agents in order to give the impression that the attack was engineered by Pakistan. The Indian interior minister declared that the attacker had been trained in Pakistan and then sent to India. But the whole thing was played so badly and the weapon used was so inferior that Pakistan could not have been involved in that crime. The culprit was first said to be a Hindu named Man Mohan. Then he became a Sikh named Karamjit Singh. Is it not strange that the attacker hid behind shrubs and continued to shoot at his ease, despite the group of commandos guarding the prime minister? No one with any common sense could believe that a foreigner could have done all this. That is why the Indian Government, which sees Pakistan at the bottom of every problem, has not yet openly accused Pakistan of being involved in the attack on its leader.

The fact is that the Indian Government needs an "enemy" in order to distract public attention from its more serious problems, that is, the Sikhs, Mizos and the issue of the Tamil uprising. It also needs an "enemy" to draw its disorganized people into a united whole. That is why Rajiv Gandhi has postponed his visit to Pakistan, whereas President Zia has already paid a state visit to India. The Indian Government does not want to settle its quarrel with Pakistan, just as our government does not want to settle its quarrel with Afghanistan. Only the status quo will allow its rule to last a little longer. Well-known Pakistani defense observer (retired) Col Ghaffar Mehdi, in discussing

the present Pakistan-India situation, told this writer that the hostilities that India initiated against us by occupying the upper portion of Sia-cheng have now entered the next stage. They have been initiated in Kashmir, where, in defiance of all the stipulations of the internationally binding Indus Basin Treaty, work has been started, after long planning, on the construction of a dam on the upper part of the Jhelum River. The Pakistan Government's reaction was nothing more than a weak protest on radio and television. India is taking great advantage of Pakistan's internal turmoil, in particular, the trouble caused by the lack of public confidence in the government, especially in Sind. Sind seems to be following in the footsteps of East Pakistan. If nothing is done to save the country, India's next step will be a full-fledged invasion of Pakistan. This invasion will be like holding Pakistan between the two jaws of a pair of pincers. One jaw will be placed in the south from India's state of Gujrat and Rajistan to Sind. The other jaw will be extended from occupied Kashmir to Azad Kashmir. Rajiv Gandhi has made peace with Faruk Abdulla. Now there will be tranquility there. Elections will soon be held, and rule by the central government will end.

But things are different in Pakistan. Here, with a few exceptions, all political parties are against the present government. That is why national unity cannot be achieved. That is exactly what the Indian leaders wish. They want us to remain a disunited nation, always at war with itself. If even after we get a glimpse of what the future holds for us from people such as retired Col Ghaffar Mehdi nothing is done to bring the government and the political parties to the negotiating table, nobody will be able to prevent the dire results that will follow this neglect. We should note that the Indian Government has set up refugee camps in Delhi, Agra and Bharatpur, where, it alleges, refugees from Pakistan are being looked after. India set up similar camps near the borders of East Pakistan before invading that province. These camps were used for training the Mukti Bahni rebels. The situation is dangerous and must not be ignored. Zia Abbas, leader of the National People's Party, and leaders of four political parties have decided to campaign for an all-party government in the elections. The leaders are: (1) Ghulam Mustapha Jatoi (National People's Party); (2) Maulana Shah Ahmad Nurani (Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam); (3) Sardar Sher Baz Mazari (NDP); and (4) Khawaja Khairudin (branch of the Muslim League). They have even agreed upon a general plan for the government they want to set up. Similarly, Benazir Bhutto met Mir Zafarulla Khan Jamali, member of National Assembly, at Dera Jamali and had a detailed dialogue with him. After that, Zafarulla Jamali had a private talk with President Zia at Islamabad. Such negotiations between the government and the political parties should be continued until some method of saving the country has been evolved.

The PPP has not only changed its attitudes in view of the political climate in the country, but it seems to be revising its policies, too. The PPP, which was thought to be leftist in the past, is now softening its attitude toward the United States. Now its cochairman, Benazir, no longer accuses the United States of responsibility for her father's hanging, but blames certain individuals in this country. During her grand procession in Lahore, when some persons burned the U.S. flag, she said that she disapproved.

Another incident has been noted with interest: Larry Grabel, the outgoing U.S. consul in Karachi, visited Pyar Ali Alana, the political brains of the PPP, one night before his departure. At that exclusive dinner, where a few special guests had been invited including Benazir Bhutto, very important talks took place. It is rumored that one PPP leader said to the U.S. consul as a joke: "You keeping changing the setup of the embassy in Pakistan; when are you going to change our political setup?" Larry Grabel answered with his usual smile.

Besides changing its attitude toward the United States, the PPP has made positive changes in its general policies as well. Now it holds processions on behalf of solving the problems of common citizens. This could have very far-reaching effects on the future of the party. On 8 October, such a procession was held in Karachi that was attended by local leaders of the PPP such as Prof N. D. Khan, Shafi Mohammadi, Amir Haider Kazmi, Mohammad Bakhsh Lashari, Rahim Bakhsh Baluch, Sher Mohammad Baluch Aziz Memon, Abdul Aziz Adhi, Sathi Ishaq, Khalil Qureshi, Khuda Bukhsh Lassi, Agha Amjad Ali, Fahimuz Zaman and Iqbal Yusaf. With this procession a demand was made for the solution of the nation's problems. This can be considered the beginning of a new era in the politics of the city. It has broken Karachi's political inertia.

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PAKISTAN

BHUTTO DECISION TO POSTPONE DEMAND FOR ELECTIONS DISCUSSED

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 11 Oct 86 p 3

[Editorial: "Benazir's Decision Favoring General Welfare"]

[Text] Benazir Bhutto, leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), has stated: "We have decided to rescind our demand that elections be held in the fall for the greater concern of the welfare of our nation." Benazir explained the reason for this decision: "We do not want any bloodshed. Our government is not stable because of pressure from the people. These elections will only change the faces, not the system." Political circles have welcomed this decision, even though it took 180 days for the leader of the PPP to make up her mind about it. It really is welcome news, because a party that is noted for being stubborn has voiced concern about bloodshed. When Benazir arrived in Pakistan on 10 April and saw "hundreds of thousands" of people welcoming her, her political thinking became a little unbalanced. The very next day she announced to the press that if she wanted, she could have burned the cantonment and taken over the Governor's House. The number of people attending rallies to welcome her was much larger than had been expected by the PPP and its opponents. This resulted in her becoming very rigid. Two rounds of talks were held without result. First, she demanded that elections be held immediately. When the government held firm, she wanted elections during the fall. When making these demands, she chose to forget that the people wanted to get rid of the martial law government at any cost. They had boycotted the boycott of elections by the MRD and had voted for a civilian government the previous March. The people ignored the demands made by the MRD and other political parties that elections be held on a party basis. They do not want to stop work just to participate in another election. The demands for another election did not receive popular support. The various rounds of talks were a failure. Then, there was an unexpected development: in many parts of Sind the enemies of our nation went on a rampage. They shed blood, burned police and railway stations, sabotaged railway lines and bridges, and killed people. Even Benazir said that it was the first time in the nation's history that 40 persons had been shot within 10 days. Finally, Benazir decided to change her attitude and adopt a more realistic approach. We should be relieved to know that finally she has decided to take the political route to achieve her goals. Hopefully, she will use nonviolent methods now. She has learned that political agitation does not help in getting her demands accepted. Pakistan's history shows that whenever people have started a movement against an

autocratic government, power has not been transferred to civilian leaders. Instead, another martial law government has taken over. It is time the politicians began to think about why each movement and agitation has resulted in another, stricter martial law government. We should analyze our present situation and find ways to make democratic politics a part of our national character. Our national affairs are in the hands of persons elected by the people. If the political parties continue to interfere, the complete transfer of power from martial law government to the new democratic government will never occur. People who want to take part in the government will have the opportunity when the next elections are held.

Mr Junejo has repeatedly announced that he does not want to remain the prime minister permanently. He believes that man is mortal and nothing is permanent. We should all work together to make sure that our country remains in one piece and that a democratic form of government becomes a custom.

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PAKISTAN

TEACHING OF URDU, ISLAM URGED TO PROMOTE NATIONAL UNITY

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 3 Oct 86 p 3

[Editorial: "Pillars of Unity"]

[Text] President Zia, speaking at the opening ceremonies of a cement factory in Sakrani the other day, declared that Pakistan is one nation and that it cannot be distributed into four countries. In his address he said that the four provinces are like four brothers in this country of God. These are part of one body; if one finger is injured, the whole body suffers. The four provinces, and the country, cannot exist without each other.

No patriotic person can disagree with President Zia's statement. A country is one unit. Unity gives a geographical area an identity in the form of a country; if this unity is destroyed, a country is no longer a country, a province does not remain a province, and a nation is a nation no longer. Provinces, districts, and counties are administrative distributions just like a house having many rooms. A house divided into several rooms and areas is still called a house. It is disastrous if the occupants of the house become enemies and try to distribute the bricks that make up the house among themselves. When this happens, that house is not called a house; it is just a heap of rubble. Rubble does not protect anyone; it is just a gathering place for wild dogs. Muslims in India and Pakistan made millions of sacrifices to get this country. They worked hard to have their identity accepted. All these sacrifices were not made so that some so-called leaders who have difficulty in accepting the concept of Pakistan as a country can destroy it. They have no right to think of it as their personal property and distribute it. This country belongs to every Pakistani and to every Muslim. No Muslim will let this great gift of God be destroyed, regardless of who is helping its enemies!

There is no doubt that Pakistan is one country, and we agree with our president. However, we would like to bring to his attention a very disturbing fact. Our government has never done anything to make this country one nation. Not a single one of the governments that have ruled Pakistan ever gave us any reason to suspect that they did not want to make this country one strong nation, but they did everything to destroy the unity of this country. The one and only way to unite this country is to try to attain the goal for which Pakistan was established in the first place. This country was established in the name of Islam, and Islam is the only power that can unite the Muslims of this country and the world. This is the relationship that unites Muslims throughout the world. If an Islamic form of government had been implemented right after the establishment of Pakistan, today these enemies of the country

would have the courage to talk about disintegrating it. As we said, each country is a unit and there are specific things that keep it united. It could be race or religion or patriotism. The United States, which has so many states and so many races living in those states, is united by patriotism. Israel became a strong and stable nation in no time; the people of the various races speaking various languages who live there have been made one body by religion. Islam is a strong religion, and it is believed that this religion can make brothers of two people who wanted to kill each other.

Come now, let us practice our religion! It is our misfortune that our governments uttered rhetoric about supporting and implementing Islam, but they spent all their energies in doing things that hurt Islam in Pakistan. Governments raised the slogan of Islam because they knew that they could fool the masses only in the name of Islam. For example, a socialist government declared itself an "Islamic socialist" government; the martial law government enacted on 5 July 1977 that stayed in power for 8 and 1/2 years used the name of Islam to justify its actions. Of course, nothing was put into practice! Now a strange situation exists. Our newspapers, magazines and journals, radio and television stations, our bureaucracy, and our cultural experts all appear to be campaigning against Islam. No one is trying to stop them. The government seems bent upon destroying the lone pillar of our national unity. In this situation, our government's statement that it wants unity sounds like a big joke. If Islamic laws had been instituted in this country, criminals would not have been running around free here. Lower Islamic courts make decisions according to Islamic laws, but their decisions are overruled by the higher courts. Is not all this a joke?

The other pillar] of unity is language. In the Soviet Union, where the Russian language is not understood in most of the country, Russian has been declared the language to be used for communication among various agencies. In Muslim states that were forcibly included in the Soviet Union, several languages are spoken, but Russian is still the official language. This was done to maintain unity. Pakistan made Urdu its official language after it was established [as published].

Many languages are spoken in the four provinces, but Urdu is the only one understood in all the provinces. The government, however, never thought it necessary to make Urdu the national language of Pakistan. Whatever steps were taken were so awkward that they only succeeded in making people hate Urdu. Leaders who understood that one language would strengthen our unity worked hard against Urdu. They claimed that regional languages would be destroyed. God knows on what basis Urdu was declared the language of the ruling class. One person crossed all boundaries of bigotry, hatred, and malice and declared that he would not use Urdu at all. His declaration was published in Urdu newspapers. We have a group of people ruling us who even dream in the English language, and they just do not want us to have our own language. Our government has never taken concrete steps to make Urdu the compulsory language in schools, the official language of our country or to communicate to people the benefits of having one language in the whole country. We would like to request that the present government take action to make this country with its four provinces one nation. Rhetoric will get us nowhere.

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